

Yugoslav jet fighters strafe Adriatic port and sirens sound in Zagreb on eve of Carrington mission

# Croats threaten to pull out of EC peace talks

From DESSA TREVISAN AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE IN BELGRADE

CROATIA last night said it would withdraw from EC peace talks if the fighting in Yugoslavia worsens, on the eve of Lord Carrington's arrival in Belgrade.

As the Croats issued their warning, federal jet fighters attacked the Adriatic port of Ploce, and air-raid sirens sounded in the Croatian capital Zagreb after the republic seized control of about 20 army bases. Zagreb residents scrambled for cover as the aircraft swooped low over the city, but did not attack.

Split radio said three Croat guardsmen were killed and two injured in an attack by Yugoslav jets on Ploce, a port midway between Split and Dubrovnik. Croatian media later said gunboats in Ploce harbor had opened fire at a maritime warehouse. It was claimed that two of them had been sunk. A military warehouse in Ploce, which Croatia listed as one of the federal facilities that surrendered, was said to be under attack.

Zvonimir Separovic, the Croatian foreign minister, told a press conference: "We

believe that [the EC] conference is counter-productive and this debate is irrelevant ... compared with the war being waged in Croatia." Mr Separovic said Croatia would stay in the talks for the present but was thinking again about its participation at the next session in The Hague next Thursday. "We will go to that meeting unless the war in Croatia escalates further, which would force us to stop our participation," he said.

Italy and Germany said they would recognise Croatia and Slovenia if peace negotiations collapsed. Gianni De Michelis, the Italian and German foreign ministers, speaking at a joint press conference, appealed for the withdrawal of the federal military from Croatia. "There is no doubt that the aggravation of the conflict is due to the federal army units fighting in Croatia," Herr Genscher said.

Signor De Michelis said the withdrawal of federal troops was the only way to "save off the spectre of total war" in Yugoslavia. They said in a joint statement that if peace negotiations between the warring parties broke down, "we will be obliged to decide to recognise the declarations of independence" of Croatia and Slovenia. Herr Genscher and Signor De Michelis said Europe would never accept border changes imposed by force.

The ministers called for a large increase in the number of EC observers monitoring violations of an EC-brokered ceasefire signed on September 1. Signor De Michelis said that the current 200 observers should be increased to 1,000 or even more if necessary. "We have requested that [federal army] units withdraw immediately and that simultaneously the number of observers be drastically increased," Herr Genscher said.

At least 28 people were reported dead in clashes at the weekend after Croat forces enjoyed rare military successes with the capture of federal facilities in Zagreb. Federal jets, tanks and rocket launchers pounded Croatian strongholds after Croatia cut food, water and electricity to garrisons. The air force launched numerous bombing runs in Croatia yesterday, hitting Osijek airport and the towns of Gospić and Otocac. Fierce fighting was reported around Osijek, Pakrac and Stara Gradiska, Tanjug news

agency said. Zagreb radio said more than 1,500 mortar bombs rained on the Danube town of Vukovar.

A federal army commander, seven officers and 13 soldiers were seized by Croat forces after their helicopter was shot and forced to land. In another act of defiance, Croatia arrested Major-General Milan Aksamovic, deputy commander of the Fifth Army District, which comprises most of mainland Croatia, and launched a criminal investigation against him.

Lord Carrington arrives in Belgrade today to meet the three leading protagonists in the undeclared civil war. The former foreign secretary and chairman of the European Community's peace conference, will hold talks with Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, and the federal defence minister, General Veljko Kadijevic.

Mr Tudjman's support in Croatia has begun to wane in



the face of several military defeats and the huge economic cost to his republic, while Mr Milosevic has begun to enjoy unexpected popularity as attitudes hardened and Serbs look to him as a strong figurehead. The headline Serbian leader also benefits because there has so far been almost no fighting on Serbian soil and because his cause has been backed by the federal army, which is paid for by national taxes.

Gangs of criminals and renegades are being drawn into the fighting, and the growing anarchy is exacerbated by regional political leaders in the republic who are beginning to act independently of Mr Tudjman. They accuse him of not understanding the full impact of fighting in areas away from Zagreb.

The army, too, has been slipping into disarray with the defence minister facing signs of revolt from military commanders. Even General Kadijevic's deputy, Admiral Brovet Stane, has told his troops not to open fire or move their tanks.

Roger Boyes, page 14

## Double for Worcester

WORCESTERSHIRE won the Refuge Assurance Cup at Old Trafford yesterday, beating Lancashire by seven runs, after their wicketkeeper, Steven Rhodes, scored his first century in one-day cricket. Worcestershire scored 235 off their 40 overs, 105 of those runs coming from the bat of Rhodes, serving as a make-shift opener. Lancashire's run-chase went well but at the cost of a steady loss of wickets. Lancashire needed 17 runs

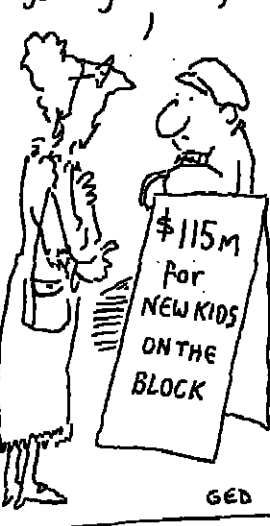
from the final over, with their last two batsmen at the crease. They managed ten, with Fittos dismissed off the final ball. It was Worcestershire's second final victory of the summer. In July, they won the Benson and Hedges Cup, again beating Lancashire. Frank Nobile, a New Zealander, took the £75,000 Lancôme golf trophy in Paris with a 13-under-par total.

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## New Kids become the leading blockbusters

From CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

It's so nice to see children in need getting money



ASK an American in the street who is the highest-paid entertainer in the world and you would probably hear the names Arnold Schwarzenegger or Madonna. The correct answer, however, is New Kids on the Block, according to a list published yesterday. Among British performers the Rolling Stones and Paul McCartney are high on the list, with Sean Connery said to be the highest paid British actor.

The five Kids, whose bland pop songs have won the hearts of millions of teenage girls and the disgust of the critical fraternity, have leaped to the top of the annual league table issued by Forbes magazine. The group earned \$115 million (£66m) over the past two years with their records and tours, well ahead of Madonna, who made \$63 million and placed number four. Schwarzenegger, synonymous with big bucks, scored only 17th place, with \$35

million, well behind such long-lived acts as the Rolling Stones, at number eight, and Paul McCartney, who was 11th. Rap music proved the road to riches for entertainers this year, with two performers, M.C. Hammer and Vanilla Ice, the white rapper, entering the league at 19 and 40. Cast out after many years

## Major given conflicting poll advice by cabinet

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major was last night at the centre of conflicting cabinet advice over the date of the next general election after Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, urged him to be ready to go to the country in the autumn.

With Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, and Norman Lamont, the chancellor, continuing to press the case for next year, Mr Baker became the first cabinet minister publicly to point towards a poll in November.

At the same time, Neil Kinnock prepared to combat the slide in his own and his party's ratings by taking the political fight back to the economy, the ground on which Labour says the election will turn. In a speech in Birmingham today,

Mr Kinnock is planning to present Labour as the party Britain should trust to build recovery out of the recession. Tomorrow, Mr Kinnock will chair a special session of the shadow cabinet that will draw up plans for an election campaign and receive an analysis of the party's private polling. It suggests that the most recent polls have exaggerated the standing of the government and that Labour is running it neck-and-neck.

Mr Baker, on the day he gave a lunch for the prime minister and friends at Dorneywood, his official residence, reacted to the two latest polls giving the Conservatives a comfortable lead over Labour by saying that Mr Major should wait to see what hap-

pened over the next few weeks and should keep his options open.

Mr Baker has been known for some time to believe that November could be a serious option, but yesterday was the first time that anyone in the cabinet had so openly countenanced the possibility. The cabinet will meet on Thursday for the first time since July, providing the opportunity for collective discussion on timing.

More Conservative MPs and ministers who had been opposed to an autumn election are now privately saying that the evidence of the next few weeks will have to be studied carefully, but the group of ministers closest to Mr Major are still making clear their preference for next year when they expect evidence of economic recovery to be more obvious and the benefits to the government greater. Conservative central office is on election alert.

Mr Patten and Mr Lamont are supported by John MacGregor, the Commons leader, in their preference for next year. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, is said by colleagues to be "not opposed" to November.

Mr Baker, interviewed on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, said: "It is far too early to decide when the date of the next election should be. John should keep all his options open. It is a very encouraging position."

Mr Baker sounded sufficiently enthusiastic about November to alarm some Conservative MPs. One said: "We must not be catapulted into November by people in too much of a hurry."

The latest Harris poll in the *Observer* gives the Conservatives a 5 per cent lead, up from a 1 per cent deficit last

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## Hostage circus pulls in crowds

As rumours of the imminent release of Westerners keep circulating, hopes are raised and dashed, writes Christopher Walker in Damascus

In spite of conflicting predictions about the timing of the next release, the hostage circus is flourishing as expectations grow that more of the 10 remaining Westerners will soon be taking the road to Damascus on the way to freedom.

The main hotels are all turning away scores of arriving journalists, and at the modest foreign ministry building in Damascus a battered blue-and-white broadcast van from Syrian television is on permanent standby, ready to transmit any ceremony and ensure kudos for President Assad.

By nightfall yesterday, the promised deadline for the release of one of the two remaining Britons - widely assumed to be the ex-Battle of Britain ace, Jackie Mann

— had passed with no sign of any movement among the heavily armed guards circling the building.

But earlier Farouk al-Sharaa, the foreign minister, was on hand to fuel the new mood of hope. "I am optimistic there could be something," he said, tantalisingly avoiding anything more concrete. He then left for West Germany for talks, expected to cover one of the main obstacles to the completion of the hostage jig-saw - the release of two convicted terrorists from German jails as demanded by their Lebanese kidnappers.

In Lebanon, Saturday's promise of a release within 24 hours was being revised

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## A better title for

WILL CARLING  
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**COQUETTE**  
MAN AT HIS BEST

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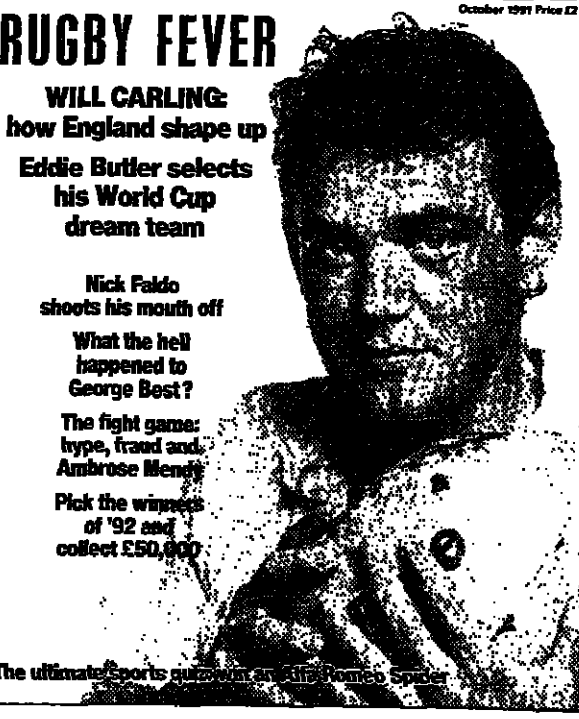
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# London hospitals fear survival fight as reforms cut funds



Waldegrave: likely to face tough closure decisions

WILLIAM Waldegrave, the health secretary, is to set up an independent enquiry into London's health services after predictions that some of the capital's most famous hospitals will be unable to survive in the new internal market.

The city's problems are said to be at the top of Mr Waldegrave's agenda. Fearing a spate of cutbacks this autumn in well-known teaching hospitals such as St Bartholomew's, Charing Cross, and St Thomas's, Mr Waldegrave has told his officials to start drawing up terms of reference for the enquiry, and to seek a "guru" to chair the investigation.

The enquiry committee is expected to analyse the impact of the health service reforms on London in the longer term and to assess whether one or more hospitals will have to close. Mr Waldegrave has

now been persuaded that a planned strategy is preferable to hospitals being forced out of business via haphazard ward closures.

The enquiry, however, is unlikely to report before next summer, giving him an excuse to postpone politically difficult decisions on closures until after an election.

There is growing evidence that many London hospitals are again running into financial difficulties. St Bartholomew's hospital, for example, is heading for a £500,000 overspend because of a 15 per cent rise in patients. Cost-cutting packages are also being drawn up at Charing Cross and Westminster hospitals, because of a shortage of extra contractual referrals. The situation is expected to get worse next year when the internal market

## An impending funding crisis in the capital's hospitals has become a top priority for the health secretary, Jill Sherman reports

takes off and GPs in the shires start referring patients nearer to their homes.

The committee will also advise Mr Waldegrave on whether to approve a £175 million teaching hospital in Bloomsbury and a £74 million new phase of St Mary's hospital, Paddington, which share over 1,000 beds between them.

Although health officials have advised him to approve the schemes, which involve smaller closures, London could be saddled with two more white elephants which cannot attract enough patients to survive.

It is widely recognised that London has too many beds and

doctors for its population, a legacy which owes as much to the influence of London-based medical academics as to bad planning by politicians. A report published earlier this year from Newchurch management consultants claimed that the 11 inner London health authorities account for 10 per cent of spending in England but only 5.3 per cent of the population.

Central London has 5.3 beds per 1,000 population compared with a national average of 2.9 and has 42 consultants per 100,000 population compared with a national average of 26.8. London costs are also higher due to greater staff and building overheads. The average

cost of treating a patient at a London teaching hospital is £1,138.93 compared with £862.66 at a teaching hospital outside London and £744.37 at a non-teaching hospital outside London.

The new enquiry is expected to build on a number of uncoordinated separate initiatives. Unlikely alliances are being formed in some parts of London as hospitals try to ensure their own future. For example the three chief executives at King's College hospital, Guy's hospital trust and St Thomas's hospital, which lie within four miles of each other, are informally talking about rationalising services to avoid duplicating specialties.

The three chairmen of the health authorities involved recognise that the three hospitals cannot survive intact, and have suggested that one of them, probably St Thomas's,

changes to a postgraduate centre. Plans to merge medical schools and move one or more teaching hospitals out of London are also gaining support among medical academics.

The King's Fund College, a health policy think-tank set up a London Commission earlier this year which is looking at medical education, research and primary health care services in the capital. Yesterday Robert Maxwell, the college's secretary, said he welcomed Mr Waldegrave's decision to look at London's problems.

Robin Cook, Opposition health spokesman, claimed yesterday that the NHS "crisis" was still at the top of voters' concerns. He said that Labour was about to launch a campaign to convince the electorate that the NHS would be safe in their hands.

## Labour election strategy

# Kinnock sets out to tackle negative message of polls

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock will today begin a concerted attempt to improve his personal electoral standing after a series of polls suggesting that people regard him as a key reason for not voting Labour.

His fightback will begin with a wide-ranging speech on the economy to the West Midlands CBL. That will be followed tomorrow by a special session of the shadow cabinet called in the full glare of publicity and showing Mr Kinnock putting his team on red alert for a November general election.

Next week a party election broadcast directed by Hugh Hudson, of *Chariots of Fire* fame, will look at the personal

record of the Labour leader, and the fulfilment of his eight-year mission to rid the party of the hard left. Hudson's broadcast in the 1987 election campaign was one of the factors that contributed to a notable increase in Mr Kinnock's standing.

Labour strategists have decided that the best way to improve Mr Kinnock's ratings, which tend to slip when he is out of the limelight, is to do all they can to raise his public profile.

Labour was doing well in early August as Mr Kinnock exploited the BCCI affair. The release of John McCarthy, followed by the Soviet coup, transformed the news scene,

put John Major at the top of every news bulletin, and reduced the Labour leadership to the status of also-rans. "We were nine points ahead, and suddenly we were wiped out," a Labour strategist said yesterday.

The fall in Mr Kinnock's popularity worries his colleagues, but there seems little inclination to blame him for it, a position that might swiftly change if Labour loses the election. Even to think of replacing him would be "utterly fatuous", a shadow cabinet member said yesterday.

There is, though, resignation that what they call a personalised campaign against Mr Kinnock, described as

"preposterous" by his deputy Roy Hattersley yesterday, has struck home.

While Mr Hattersley predicted that Tory efforts to denigrate Mr Kinnock would rebound, the Conservatives seem to have few qualms about taking the risk. Virtually every ministerial reference to the election yesterday contained a remark to the effect that the country did not want Mr Kinnock as leader.

Labour strategists claim that Mr Kinnock's biggest difficulty is that the picture of him presented by the tabloid newspapers has had a drip-drip impact on the public. Private Labour party polls are said to show that virtually all the negative responses against Mr Kinnock — the "windbag" jibe, the allegation that he is prepared to sacrifice all his principles in pursuit of power — derive from the image presented of him in Conservative tabloid papers.

A senior strategist said yesterday: "We know this is something we have to put up with. It gives us no pleasure to admit that it works sometimes. We had it before the last election but when the campaign got under way and people saw the real Neil Kinnock rather than the image presented by the tabloids the position improved. That will happen again."

The Labour party is nudged a step closer to backing electoral reform with the publication today of a draft written constitution by the Institute for Public Policy Research.

The draft by the think-tank, which has close links with Labour, backs many of the constitutional reforms pioneered by the Liberal Democrats and Charter 88, and much of the human rights package espoused by Labour. The document calls for fixed-term parliaments, home rule for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and regional assemblies for England, as well as for electoral reform.

## Polls show moderate Tory lead

By IVOR CREWE

YESTERDAY'S two opinion polls confirm that the Conservatives have moved into a clear if moderate lead over Labour. The last five polls have put the Conservatives ahead, a position they have not enjoyed since John Major's honeymoon and the Gulf War at the beginning of the year.

The polls yesterday showed leads of 4 and 5 percentage points, which are in line with the Gallup poll conducted late last month but larger than two other recent polls showing the Conservatives only two points ahead. The polls were conducted after the further half-point drop in interest rates but mainly before the latest drop in the inflation rate had been announced.

The latest polls have caught the headlines because they show the Conservatives overtaking Labour. They are, however, part of an accelerating erosion of Labour's lead since the summer. Labour should be concerned that the Tory revival has been wholly at its expense, while the Liberal Democrat vote has remained unexpectedly solid.

The weekend polls inevitably increase the prime minister's temptation to call a November election. But the Conservative lead is still too small and too recent to make November a safe bet.

Ivor Crewe is professor of government at the University of Essex.



Top notes: Joanne Luma, aged 16, of Leicester, who became BBC Radio 2's choirgirl of the year yesterday, winning £500 and £1,000 for her choir

# Teachers at independent schools to get equal status

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

NEWLY qualified teachers entering independent schools would be given the same status as those joining state schools under plans being considered by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary.

Independent school headmasters believe that many education departments and teacher training colleges put new teachers off applying for jobs at fee-paying schools, telling students that once they entered an independent school they would never be able to work in a state school. Young teachers also face salary cuts if they choose to leave independent education and move into the state system.

Most local education authorities, which still control the majority of the 23,000 state schools in England and Wales, insist on a year in a state school before they accept a teacher as fully qualified. Governors of grant-maintained schools and city technology colleges already have complete freedom of appointment provided a teacher is suitably qualified.

Headmasters attending the annual meeting of the Headmasters' Conference in Cambridge this week expect that when Mr Clarke talks to them tomorrow evening he will announce that this freedom will be extended to all state schools. In return, the independent schools say they will provide a first-year training scheme for new teachers that is better than the normal state probationary year.

Independent schools either match the national pay rates or pay slightly more. Newly qualified teachers entering a state primary school with a good honours degree receive £11,800, rising to £12,639 after successfully completing their probationary year. Similarly qualified teachers from an independent school decid-

ing to switch to a state school would almost certainly find themselves being paid the starting rate or even be offered one grade below at £11,300.

Geoffrey Parker, High Master of Manchester Grammar School and chairman of the conference, which represents 233 independent schools, said: "I hope Mr Clarke will review the arrangements for the continued training of new teachers, who normally have to complete a probationary year in a state school before being fully recognised."

Mr Parker accepts that whatever Mr Clarke decides, changes will have to include the whole of the independent sector. Some independent schools do not require a teacher training qualification but it would be up to each state school governing body to decide whether teachers meet their requirements.

Education, pages 26, 27

# Jobs in education sought

By OUR EDUCATION EDITOR

MANY new graduates finding it hard to get a job are turning to the education service, either to teach or manage, according to the Universities Funding Council's survey of graduates leaving universities last year.

The survey shows that 2,528 new graduates, 4.1 per cent of the total, entered teacher training in 1990, compared with 3.9 per cent the previous year, less than half the 9.6 per cent who chose teacher training in 1980. There was, however, a 14 per cent rise in the number going straight into the education service as administrators, technicians and teachers, up from 1,869 in 1989 to 2,139 last year.

The recession has affected the type of jobs chosen by graduates. The number entering industry fell by 10 per cent, while that for accountancy, banking and commerce dropped by 9 per cent. The number going into the public services, excluding teaching, rose by 2 per cent, with the majority finding work with health authorities.

Subject group	In work	Still seeking	Academic study	Teacher training
Medicine & dentistry	99.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
Education	83.3	2.4	2.4	2.0
Studies allied to medicine	77.5	2.5	10.7	0.6
Business and financial studies	74.2	5.2	3.2	0.9
Engineering & technology	72.8	4.9	11.0	0.6
Architecture & related studies	69.0	4.7	6.3	0.2
Vet science, agriculture and related studies	60.07	7.4	10.5	1.4
Mathematical sciences	60.1	8.7	13.1	4.6
Physical sciences	41.5	7.5	30.4	4.5
Creative arts	40.8	8.5	8.1	10.7
Humanities	39.2	10.4	10.5	7.0
Biological sciences	39.0	8.6	27.4	5.0
Social sciences	37.7	8.8	7.6	2.9
Librarianship and information science	37.2	16.3	8.1	2.3
Languages and related studies	35.2	9.4	7.3	9.7
Multi-discipline studies	43.5	9.8	9.6	6.1
All subjects	53.5	7.0	11.7	4.1

\* Graduates seeking further study or employment

For the third year in succession there was a fall in the number going directly into permanent employment, dropping from 58 per cent in 1989-90 to 53.5 per cent last year. The number still seeking employment a year after leav-

ing university rose for the first time since 1981-82 to 7 per cent. The survey also shows that the 30,700 graduates with higher degrees — 7 per cent more than last year — were more successful in finding work.

## Plea for unity on Aids policy

National governments and health authorities have made little attempt to learn from each other in controlling the Aids epidemic, according to a report published today (Jill Sherman writes).

The report from the Office of Health Economics argues that international collaboration in science to produce a vaccine or cure should be matched by international policies for management and prevention.

"The extraordinary variation between the patterns of the disease in different parts of the world, and the special social and economic significance which it can have in different countries mean that special attention must be paid to it sociologically as well as scientifically," the office's report says.

## Crash death

A fifth person has died after an accident in which a car went out of control and ploughed into youngsters sitting on a bench. Belinda Brown, aged 19, died on Saturday, 24 hours after the crash in Swindon, Wiltshire. Police are waiting to interview the driver, Shaun Gooch, aged 24, who was overtaking a number of cars when his vehicle hit the kerb and went out of control. He is recovering in hospital.

## Mail costs up

Postal charges go up today exactly one year after the last increase. The price of a first-class stamp goes up by 2p to 24p, and that for second-class by 1p to 18p. A Post Office spokesman said that the increased charges would help to pay for a record programme of investment for the Royal Mail of £1.6 billion over the next five years, more than double the amount for the last five years.

## Protest march

The Trades Union Congress is organising a march by unemployed people to coincide with the Conservative party annual conference next month. Marchers will leave Manchester on October 7 and reach the conference headquarters in Blackpool on October 11 to protest at government policies. Meetings to rally support will be staged along the route.

## AGENDA THE WEEK AHEAD

**Tuesday**  
English Heritage publishes annual report. The Prince of Wales opens Visions of Japan exhibition at the V&A. Production output and retail sales figures for August released.

**Wednesday**  
Scottish National Party annual conference begins, Inverness. Press Complaints Commission report on its first six months published. Private manslaughter prosecution following Marchioness boat disaster opens.

**Thursday**  
Green party conference begins, Wolverhampton. Royal Television Society convention opens, Cambridge.

**Friday**  
Oxford annual meeting opens. The Duchess of York installed as chancellor of Salford University. British Psychological Society conference opens, Surrey University.

**Saturday**  
Leicestershire literature festival begins.  
**Sunday**  
Britain's best milkman award. Last day of Green party conference.

## NEW INTEREST RATES FOR INVESTORS

As from 16th September 1991  
the interest rates on shares and deposits will be as follows:

	GROSS RATE %	NET RATE %
<b>TESSA PREMIER*</b>	12.25	—
<b>KEY 90 PLUS</b>		
balances £100,000 and over	11.75	8.81
Monthly Income	11.15	8.36
balances £50,000 and over	11.50	8.63
Monthly Income	10.90	8.18
balances £25,000 and over	11.00	8.25
Monthly Income	10.45	7.84
balances £10,000 and over	10.75	8.06
Monthly Income	10.25	7.69
<b>PLATINUM KEY</b>		
balances £25,000 and over	9.80	7.35
Monthly Income	9.35	7.01
balances £10,000 and over	9.20	6.90
Monthly Income	8.80	6.60
balances £5,000 and over	8.80	6.60
Monthly Income	8.45	6.34
<b>GOLDEN KEY</b>		
balances £25,000 and over	9.45	7.09
balances £10,000 and over	9.05	6.79
balances £5,000 and over	8.40	6.30
balances £1,000 and over	8.05	6.04
balances under £1,000	3.50	2.63
<b>CASHKEY</b>	3.50	2.63
<b>FUTURE KEY</b>	3.50	2.63
<b>PAID-UP SHARES</b>	3.50	2.63
<b>MONEYMAKER SHARES</b>	4.80	3.60
<b>SUBSCRIPTION SHARES</b>	4.45	3.34

OTHER ACCOUNTS. Details of the interest rates on accounts not listed are available on request from Branches of Yorkshire Building Society. Some classes of deposit will receive separate notices which will then replace this notice.

TAXATION. Interest will be paid at the net rates shown, which allow for the deduction of basic rate income tax (currently 25%), or subject to the required registration, gross. Non-taxpayers who receive interest net may retain tax deducted from the interest.

\*Tax-free provided no capital withdrawals are made during the 5 year term.

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# British Sikhs beset by strife between political factions

AS THE newly elected general secretary of the Sikh temple stood up to perform his duties for the first time there was uproar. A group of men leapt forward and attacked him. In the confusion that followed, Sarbant Singh Dosanj suffered the great Sikh insult of having his turban torn from his head.

The temple violence ended only when the general secretary's wife threw herself across his prostrate body to protect him from the kicks of his opponents.

A scene of internecine strife in the Indian Punjab? In fact it is a snapshot of the long-running struggle between militant and moderate Sikhs in Britain. The attack on Sarbant Singh Dosanj took place at a Sikh gurdwara, or temple, in Bradford.

Such violent scenes are not that uncommon within the precincts of Britain's 2,000 or so Sikh temples. But for most of the time the complex divisions between Britain's Sikhs are hidden from the eyes of those who know nothing of their religion and politics.

Occasionally, the problems bubble to the surface and attract widespread attention, as they did last month when three Sikh extremists were jailed by the Central Criminal Court for their part in a murder plot against political moderates who had regained control of a temple in Southall, west London.

Few outsiders, however, are equipped to understand exactly what is going on or how the problems should be handled. Towards the end of the attack on Sarbant Singh Dosanj, police arrived at the temple but were prevented from entering because they refused to remove their shoes. In spite of police efforts to calm the rivalry in Bradford, there are renewed worries that the battle for the control of the

## Rivalry between Sikh extremists and moderates is prone to outbreaks of violence, writes Jamie Dettmer

city's Guru Goband Singh Sikh temple could take an even uglier turn than the assault last spring on Sarbant Singh Dosanj. Some shops and houses owned by moderates have been attacked, and death threats have been made. "We will kill you - disappear you from the earth," one leading moderate was told recently. Another opponent of the extremists, who is too frightened to be identified, said: "I am afraid not only for myself and not only for my family here. I have family in the Punjab as well - that is why I am scared. They can hire people out there and have something done." Fearful of reprisal, Sarbant Singh Dosanj declined to discuss his experiences of the extremists.

The prize for the victors in the struggle over the Guru Goband Singh gurdwara is control of the temple funds. Anything from £4,000 to £5,000 can be collected each week in donations from the 900 or so congregation. It is feared that money from some Sikh temples is finding its way into India and being used to buy arms. Recently, the Indian High Commission complained to the Foreign Office that although many of the 200 larger gurdwaras were registered charities, the Charity Commission was failing to monitor the use of temple funds.

An official at the commission said: "Many gurdwaras conduct their financial affairs in cash rather

than cheques and we know that some temples lodge contributions in fake accounts."

It is generally acknowledged that the battle over the temples is not as fierce as it was in the mid-eighties. Then many British Sikhs were drawn into agitating for an independent Sikh homeland when their holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, was stormed by Indian troops.

In recent years, British Sikh extremism has become less effective. Splinter groups have proliferated along personality and ideological lines originating in the Indian Punjab. In 1987, the International Sikh Youth Federation, the main separatist movement in Britain, split into two factions: a conservative northern group based in Birmingham, Derby and Newcastle upon Tyne, and a southern group drawing its main support from London, Luton and Watford.

As well as the two federation groups, there are at least five other factions: the Khalistan government-in-exile, the Council of Khalistan, Babbar Khalsa (Army of Lions), Dal Khalsa (Party of the Pure), and Azad Khalsa (Free Army of the Pure).

In West Yorkshire, Azad Khalsa is highly active and is well-represented in Bradford. Some of the leading figures at the Guru Goband Singh temple, however, deny that the group is involved in the opposition to the new general secretary.

Since spring, the gurdwara's management committee, which is split 18 to 12 in favour of the hardliners, has appointed a second general secretary to share the responsibilities for running the temple with Sarbant Singh Dosanj, setting the ground for further clashes.

## Tyneside riot claims rejected by Baker

KENNETH Baker, the home secretary, yesterday rejected Labour claims that the government should accept some responsibility for rioting on Tyneside. He said it was all too easy to wrongly blame the trouble on unemployment or broken families.

"There are many children who come from one-parent families and don't get up to criminality and lawlessness. It is too easy to make connections of that sort and I don't accept this," he said.

His comments came as Northumbria police said that 261 people had been arrested in connection with last week's Tyneside rioting.

The new Bishop of London said yesterday that recent riots raised fundamental questions about the nature of our society. Dr David Hope, the former Bishop of Wakefield, who was enthroned on Saturday, criticised people's materialism and consumerism.

In a BBC radio interview he pointed to the possibility of the disturbances being co-ordinated by "a group or persons", and said there was a great deal of boredom among young people. The riots raised fundamental questions about the nature of our society.

Police were yesterday hunting two joyriders in Bath whose stolen vehicle was involved in a crash which killed Sylvia Hunt, aged 58, a nurse. The men ran from the accident late on Saturday night and may have been injured.



Comic reminder: Peter Sellers' son, Michael Sellers, and his grandson, William, unveil a plaque at the late actor's former home in Muswell Hill, north London

## Lorries carrying 2,000lb bombs in road crash

By ROBIN YOUNG

A CONSERVATIVE MP yesterday called for a government enquiry after civilian lorries, including one advertising a double-glazing business, each carrying a 2,000lb bomb for the US air force, collided nose-to-tail in his constituency.

Henry Bellingham, MP for Norfolk North West, has written to Tom King, the defence secretary, asking why the American air force is allowed to move bombs around the country in civilian lorries without notifying police.

Three out of six lorries in a convoy carrying Mark 84 bombs from RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire, to a US air base at Sculthorpe, Norfolk, shunted into each other at a roundabout at King's Lynn, after a laundry van was in collision with the last in the convoy. None of the lorries was seriously damaged.

One bomb carrier was marked "Glossal Systems - double glazing and aluminium units". Another appeared to have been hired from Central Trailers Rental. After the accident, on Friday, American air force personnel in the convoy alerted emergency services. A half-mile exclusion zone was established, and the road was closed for six hours.

Yesterday, Mr Bellingham said: "The convoy arrangements appear to have been utterly chaotic. The civilian lorries were soft-sided vehicles, which are not designed for moving this type of ordinance, and if terrorists had

learnt about the movement of bombs in this way they could have chosen a moment to strike while the convoy was completely unprotected."

A US air force spokesman said: "There was no danger to the public at all. The bombs were of a conventional type and were not fused." It was quite usual for it to use contractors to move munitions.

Police said they had not been informed of the convoy.

## Curbs on wild mink demanded

By JOHN YOUNG

THE National Association of Local Councils, representing parish councils in England and Wales, is seeking a meeting with John Gummer, the agriculture minister, to demand stronger action to control the growing population of feral mink.

Many escaped to the wild or were released by animal rights activists and destroyed fish, wildfowl and poultry.

Sonia Hesketh, of the River Thames Society, said yesterday that mink were breeding in unprecedented numbers along the river's upper reaches. If they were not controlled, they would change the river environment.

## Architect shows off city of future

By LOUISE HIDALGO

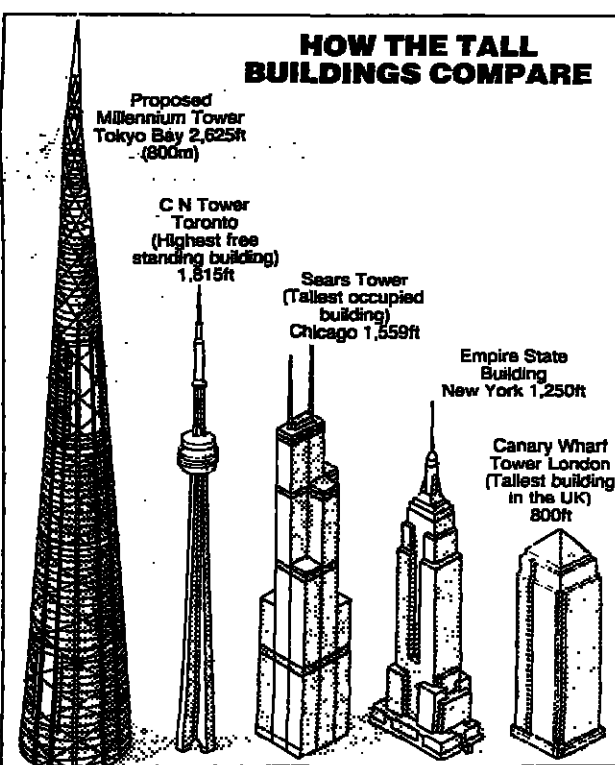
SIR Norman Foster's design of a futuristic city, housing 50,000 people and soaring 2,500ft from the sea off Japan, is one of the more visionary fantasies on show in the British pavilion at the Venice Biennale this month.

The British architect, renowned for modernist steel and concrete structures, has produced a solution of tapering beauty to Tokyo's chronic office and housing shortage.

The conical Millennium Tower would rise from Tokyo harbour to almost twice the height of the world's largest office building, the Sears Tower, in Chicago. The layered structure of hotels, shops, offices and flats could accommodate all the British passport holders being allowed to leave Hong Kong to live in Britain.

High-powered lifts would speed cars and people up and down the structure, with "sky lobbies" at every thirtieth floor for access to homes and offices. A pier would link the anchored island to the mainland.

The design was commissioned by the Japanese build-



ing conglomerate, Obayashi, with whom Sir Norman enjoys an innovative partnership. Earlier this year, his Century Tower in central Tokyo was finished. The Millennium Tower is so far only an "idea waiting for a plan", Obayashi admits, and no firm offers of backing have yet been received. Construction would cost billions of dollars, and require reclamation of large areas of the harbour. The structure is

feasible, drawing on technology used in off-shore oil rigs. If built, the Millennium Tower would be the great building of the modern world (Marcus Binney writes). It would be a complete city in itself, and the more dramatic for its site off Tokyo. Designed as the slenderest and most elongated of cones, it has a silhouette of supreme elegance, far removed from the sinister conical hood of the Ku Klux Klan.

## V&A thinks big again with high-tech vision of Japan

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales and the Crown Prince of Japan will mark the start of the Japan Festival today by opening the Visions of Japan exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The £4 million display is the first of a new generation of big exhibitions at the V & A, which were abandoned in 1984. The museum hopes that up to 200,000 people will visit it during the next four months.

The exhibition, containing a kaleidoscope of modern technology illustrating modern Japan, is being held in the V&A's north court, open to the public for the first time in 60 years.

The south court, the other main room used for exhibitions, has been closed since 1983. It has cost the museum £2.5 million to make the courts waterproof, weatherproof and electrically sound. The V & A will also launch

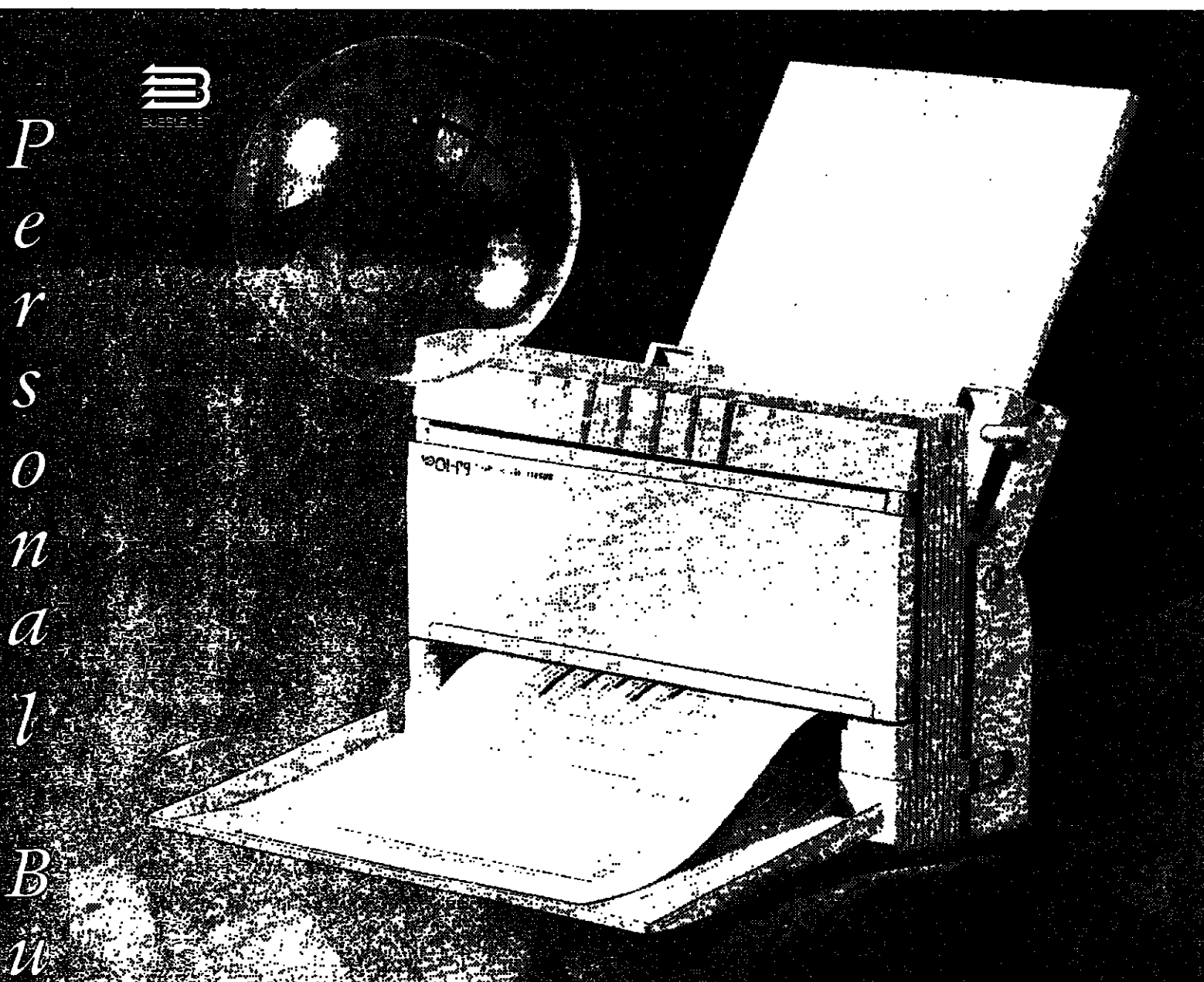
a £100 million restoration campaign today. Maurice Saatchi, co-founder of the advertising agency and a museum trustee, chairs the V & A's fund-raising committee. He said: "We have probably the best example of iron and glass architecture in London in the courts. It needs to be restored to its full glory." A model of the courts is being built and will be ready before the Japanese exhibition ends. The model, which depicts the rooms as they looked in the 1860s, will be shown around the world in an attempt to raise money. The museum hopes to have the restoration completed by the end of the century. Work will be done in phases as money becomes available.

The north court will become the gallery of Indian and South-east Asian art, and the south court the 19th-century gallery. Until then, the rooms will be used as exhibition venues. The next display, entitled Sovereign, will commemorate the Queen's fortieth anniversary on the throne. It will be followed by exhibitions on William Morris and Robert Adam.

The courts were designed by Captain Francis Fowke, a Royal Engineers architect discovered by Henry Cole, the museum's founder. It was originally known as the South Kensington Museum. Captain Fowke also designed the atrium gallery in the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh.

He created the exhibition space by covering a quadrangle. The north court was an engineering miracle of the day with glass pyramids supported not by columns rising from the floor but iron ribs. Since the 1960s the pyramids have been concealed by a mezzanine floor.

Leading article, page 15



In just 12 months, the Canon BJ-10ex has become the world's most successful portable computer printer. In the UK alone, it has already captured a massive share of the portable printer market.

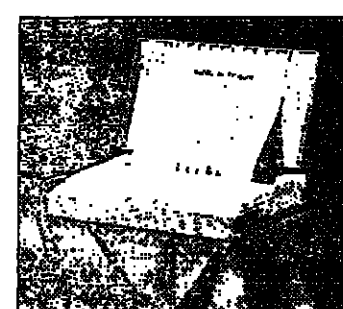
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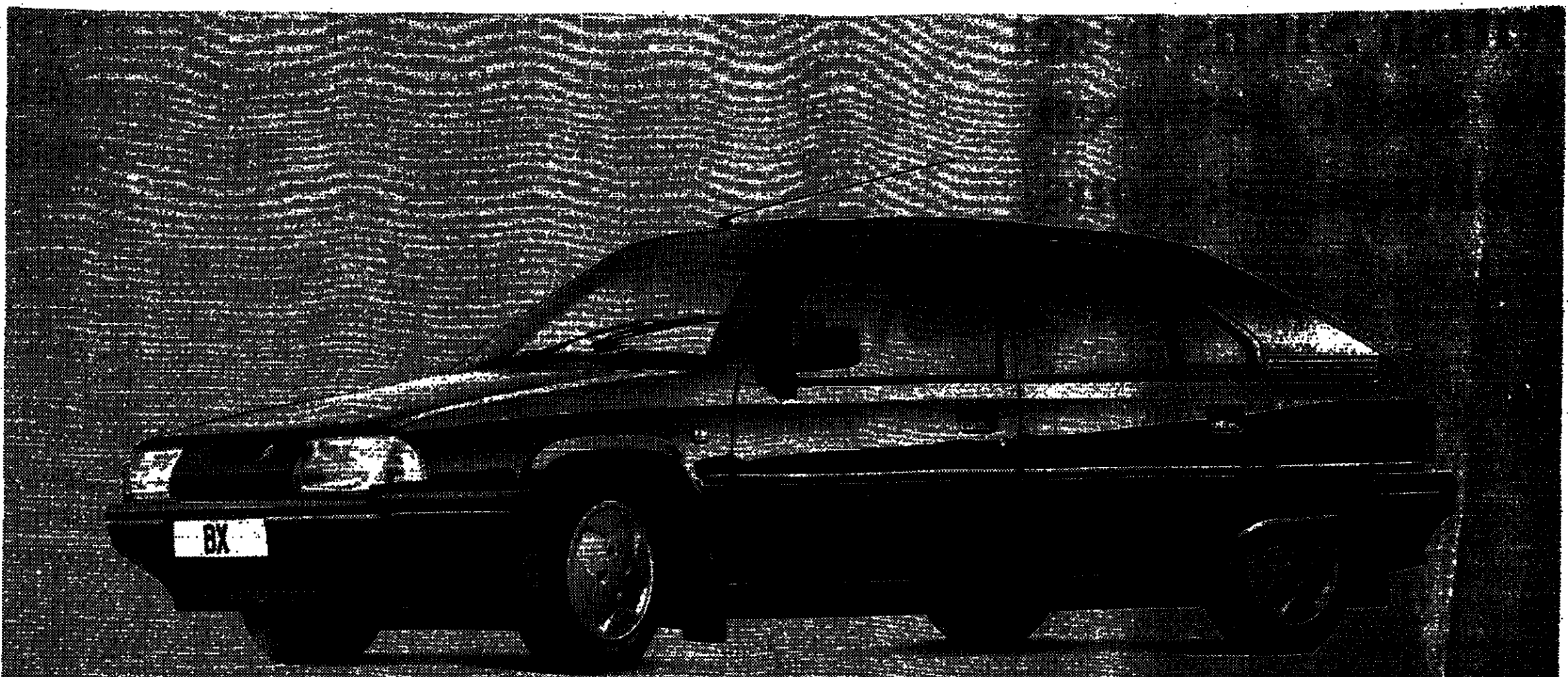
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CAVALIER L 1.7D	11,650	20.0**	94	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO
SIERRA 1.8 LX TD	12,159	15.2	99	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
MONTEGO 2.0 DLX	12,225	12.5	101	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO

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سكدا من الاصل



# Soviet collapse will not bring new cuts in forces, says King

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE government has ruled out further cuts in the armed forces, in spite of the break-up of the Soviet Union, Tom King, the defence secretary, said yesterday.

He attacked the policies of Labour and the Liberal Democrats which, he said, would have a devastating effect on the defence industry. "Critics have accused me of going too far or of not going far enough [in restructuring the three services]," Mr King said in an interview with *The Times*.

Under the "options for change" defence review, the budget is to be cut by 6 per cent in the next four years, the equivalent of about £1.2 billion, and the army reduced by a quarter to 116,000 soldiers. "I don't think the public wants to see us taking great risks with our defence and I don't think they want to see us unable to take part in a Gulf operation or anywhere else where our allies ask us to help," he said.

Mr King's insistence that the cuts already announced are as far as he can safely go is likely to be contested before an election. Labour has already challenged Mr King to begin a full-scale defence review.

Martin O'Neill, shadow defence secretary, claimed last week that the government's "cold war-based defence policy has been smashed to smithereens by the post-coup changes in what was the Soviet Union".

However, Mr King said: "Some people seem to think that total peace will break out because the Soviet Union looks as though it will become a shadow of its former self. But you can't bank on this."

"I don't think we should take anything on trust. Things could change again [in the

Soviet Union]. They have massive problems and if they don't solve their economic difficulties, the Soviet Union could be a very dangerous place. It would be mistaken to assume that the defeat of the coup and the explosion of joy that followed guarantee a successful outcome."

The government's defence policy for the 1990s had been based on strategic and intelligence assessments, he said. They included the judgment that the Warsaw pact would not be re-created and none of the eastern European countries would become "willing satellites of a cohesive Soviet Union".

He said: "We haven't had real peace for the last 45 years because of the constant threat from the massive Warsaw pact forces. What we have now is what I would regard as a normal peacetime situation but we must have the capability to defend ourselves and to cope with the unexpected."

The latest developments in the Soviet Union were a bonus, but they were not a reason for rethinking defence policy. "I fear there will be quite a lot of conflict [in the Soviet Union]," he said, adding: "I hope neither this country nor European countries nor the Nato alliance will get involved but the next few years could be very difficult."

The Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal was one of the reasons why the West had to remain cautious. However, Mr King said that the Soviet authorities had provided very full information in the past few weeks, which had reassured the West about the political control and technical safeguards governing Soviet nuclear weapons. "They have been very forthcoming... From what we have been told, it seems the technical proce-

dures are of a very high order. We have been quite surprised by the effectiveness of their system."

However, he added: "All these controls are only as good as the loyalty and commitment of the people who enforce them. If the people in charge of them haven't been fed for a month or if they haven't been paid... we have to take this very seriously."

Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, has indicated his desire to share political control of Soviet nuclear weapons. About 85 per cent of the strategic systems are based on Russian territory and there are plans to move the systems in the Ukraine and Kazakhstan to the Russian republic. Can Mr Yeltsin be trusted?

Mr King replied: "I've never met him. Most of the people I met [including Marshal Dmitri Yazov, the former defence minister, and General Mikhail Moiseyev, the former chief of the general



"I don't think we should take anything on trust. Things could change again" - Tom King talking to Michael Evans

staff) are helping the KGB with their enquiries.

"Yeltsin has shown terrific courage. He has had his critics but there must be a smaller number now. I think they appreciate his real qualities."

Mr King stressed that the

government intended to press ahead with replacing free-fall nuclear bombs with a new tactical air-to-surface missile (TASM). "I think it's very important that we have a sub-strategic nuclear capability," he said. Irrespective of what

the alliance decided on short-range air-launched systems, Britain would go ahead with providing the RAF with a tactical nuclear weapon, he said.

Mr King agreed with the recent comment made by

Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, that the short-range, land-based nuclear systems, including nuclear artillery, could probably be eliminated. "I don't see that they have a continuing role to play," he said.

## Man faces murder charge after fire

By RAY CLANCY

A man will appear before magistrates today charged with murdering two young girls died in a fire at their home while their parents were at a wedding reception.

Laura Smith, aged two, and her sister Emma, aged three, were being looked after by their aunt and grandmother when the blaze started at their home at Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, on Saturday. Firemen rescued the girls from the blaze but they died on the way to hospital.

Neighbours informed Helen and Mick Smith of the tragedy.

Christine Smith, the girls' aunt, aged 27, and Frances Smith, their grandmother, aged 57, were taken to hospital. Last night, Miss Smith was recovering from smoke inhalation at Mansfield general hospital and Mrs Smith was in a critical condition with burns at Nottingham city hospital.

Andrew Jones, aged 28, a plumber, was later charged to appear before Mansfield magistrates.

## Three bid for train contract

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THREE international consortia have submitted bids for a multi-million-pound contract to build a new generation of InterCity 250s for the west coast mainline between London and Glasgow.

The high-speed locomotives and rolling stock, which will be capable of 155mph, are part of a £750 million package to upgrade the 401-mile west coast route that InterCity is planning for the mid 1990s. Bids have been received from the Anglo-French consortium GEC-Alsthom; Asea Brown Boveri, a Swedish-Swiss engineering group; and Bombardier-Siemens, a Canadian-German consortium.

John Prideaux, the InterCity director, hopes to submit his recommendation for the successful candidate to the British Railways Board in December. It will then be up to the government, until now seen as ambivalent towards the scheme, to decide whether to authorise the investment.

The investment package includes extensive track improvements and resignalling work, which is expected to reduce journey times. The journey from London to Manchester, for example, would be cut by 20 minutes to 110 minutes.

## BR in fight to save tunnel link

By OUR TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH RAIL is fighting to prevent Treasury officials securing a postponement of the Channel tunnel high-speed rail link.

Although work on upgrading existing lines to provide a basic international rail service when the tunnel opens in 1993 is on schedule, BR is being asked to justify its forecast that increased demand for domestic and international services will require the construction of a new line by the end of the decade.

Treasury officials claim that the drop in demand for Network SouthEast's domestic services in Kent has released additional rail capacity for international services between London, Paris and Brussels, and the new 69-mile line between Folkestone and London is not needed.

The recession has led to a sharp drop in the amount of Kent commuter traffic to central London, which has forced Network SouthEast to cut services to the area. Treasury officials say that since domestic rail demand is not expected to recover quickly, there would be extra capacity for international services on existing lines. The building of the new £3.5 billion line could be postponed possibly until next century, they claim.

## Boy's £1 invention could save babies

A SCHOOLBOY aged 17 has invented a medical device costing only £1 that could save babies' lives across the world. His throwaway, hand-held pump made from plastic could be a vital instrument in clearing the air passages of new-born babies.

Angus Filshie, who is studying for three science A-levels at Trent College, near Nottingham, holds the world patent rights to his invention. It was due to be launched internationally at a conference of obstetricians and gynaecologists in Singapore yesterday.

The device is to be manufactured in South Wales for the Nottingham-based marketing company Femcare, which expects to be selling at least 500,000 a year by 1996. It won a major prize in last year's Young Engineer for Britain contest.

Angus will be in Zurich this week with his technology

teacher from Trent College representing Britain in the third European Science Fair. There, the pump will compete against the best inventions by people under 25 from all over Europe.

Angus built the original prototype as part of his GCSE course. He has just received the £5,000 Comino Foundation Prize for the development work he has put into it.

Its key aspect is that it allows the baby's breathing passages to be cleared hygienically.

Previously, midwives had to use a suction pump, opening themselves up to diseases such as Aids or hepatitis B if a baby was infected.

Angus's father, Marcus Filshie, who invented the hugely successful Filshie Clip for female sterilisation, said at his home in Mapperley Park, Nottingham, that he did not think the invention would make Angus a millionaire.

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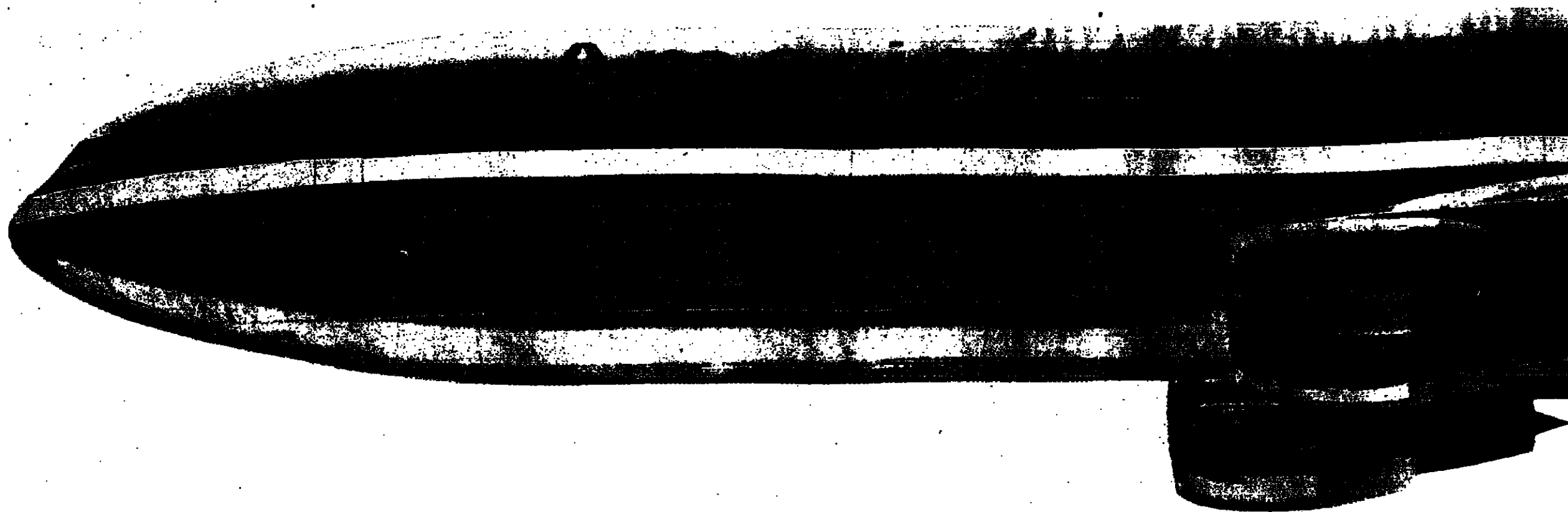


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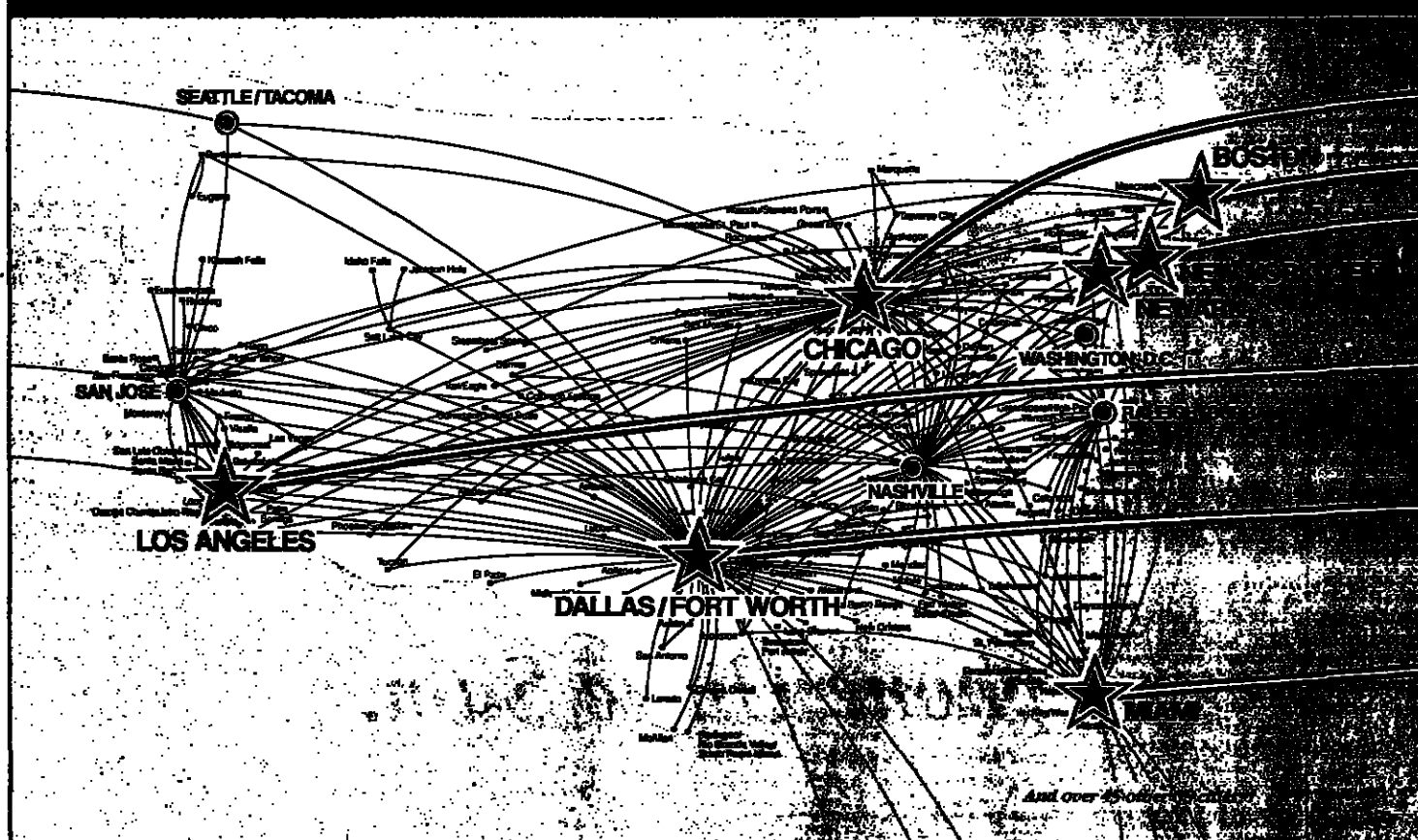
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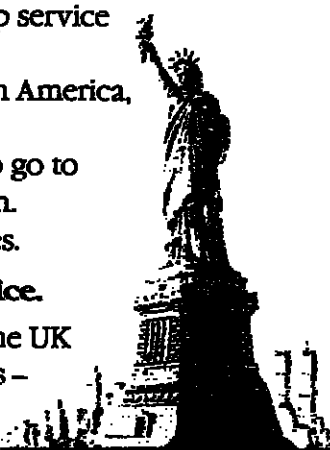
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# Bishop pleads for unity to halt Church 'ghettoism'

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE bishop of London, Dr David Hope, yesterday made a plea for unity within the Church of England. The church must be preserved from "declining into a cosy congregationalism, a ghettoism", he said at St Paul's cathedral.

His comments came as the debate over plans by George Austin, the archdeacon of York, to establish a breakaway church intensified. John Gummer, the agriculture minister and a general synod member, told the annual conference of the Prayer Book Society that a breakaway church was not the correct solution to the church's problems and called for an end to the "synodical wrangling".

"Even at this late hour we can save the church we love. The Church of England needs ten years in the wilderness, a decade of prayer and repentance. We must agree to set aside that which divides us and concentrate instead on what we still share." His plea

was echoed by Dr Hope, who was enthroned as bishop on Saturday. Dr Hope, preaching at a diocesan communion service, said the church had become polarised.

Theologians are concerned that the church's witness in the decade of evangelism is one of an institution tearing itself apart. Canon Rowan Williams, Lady Margaret professor of divinity at Oxford, said the public's perception was of a self-destructive, ill-tempered church. He said most senior academics would oppose a split. "I do not see how ordaining women can be *ipso facto* betraying credal faith."

Some radical traditionalists have proposed claiming a percentage of the church's assets and buildings for the breakaway faction. One senior churchman said that that would be impossible without years of wrangling over legislation in synod and parliament.

Dr Hope's diocese is a stronghold of opposition to women priests, but also contains extreme liberal and evangelical elements. Supporters of women priests were surprised that of the 12 London deaneries which have voted on the issue, seven were in favour.

The archdeacon remained unrepentant yesterday. He said: "I have had more than 400 letters from people and only 12 of them have been critical of my stance. I think that shows that my views are in line with the groundswell of opinion on the matter."

Mr Gummer accused liberals of attempting to hijack the church. He said: "There is a real lack of Christian charity among the Trident liberals in the church." Referring to the debate over the Crookford's financial security and greater demands on social services.

"The implications that the current divorce rate has for the future prosperity and care of old people are tremendous," said Francis McGlone, the report's author. "Although some of the next century's elderly divorcees will doubtless be cohabiting with a partner, many more must expect to enter retirement on their own."

Since most of these would be women, the tendency of divorcees to ignore a husband's occupational pension rights when making a settlement should be questioned, he said. "Growing numbers of ex-wives risk financial disadvantage in old age unless they remarry or have accumulated sufficient pension entitlement on their own."



Counting them in: a Chinese goose takes a proprietary interest in the annual census of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust as Leslie and Eleanor Frain monitor water birds at the Cotswold water park in Gloucestershire. About 2,000 volunteers are involved in the nationwide count

## Ex-wives will suffer as divorce among old rises

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE number of elderly divorced people is expected to quadruple over the next 35 years, leading to a rise in the number of people facing old age on their own, according to a report published today.

Last year, one in 39 women and one in 44 men over 65 had divorced without remarrying, according to the Family Policy Studies Centre's report. The centre predicts that by 2025 that number will rise to one in 11 men and one in eight women, leading to increased financial insecurity and greater demands on social services.

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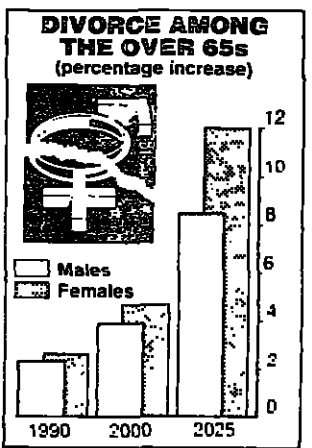
The level of support they received from relatives and organised services would determine how able the elderly were to remain independent, the report says. It claims that statutory services

are not keeping pace with demographic changes. Although services such as home help, day care and meals on wheels have grown in absolute terms since 1976 the growth has not matched the rise in the population over 75.

Not all elderly people have relatives they might live with. In 1987 nearly a third of the over-75s had never had children and 7.5 per cent had outlived their children.

One in five of the population will be a pensioner by 2031, rising from 8.8 million to 12 million. About 3,500 people will receive the Queen's pension on their hundredth birthday, compared with just 271 in 1951.

Men of all ages are more likely to remain single than women, but after middle age lower proportions of women than men are married and a much higher proportion widowed. The report argues that



The NHS argues that under the Children Act, which becomes law on October 14, families should have an automatic right to the care, where children are looked after in residential schemes or by other families.

## Magnox reactors may last 45 years

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SOME of Britain's ageing Magnox nuclear power stations could end up operating much longer than the nuclear industry has so far publicly indicated.

Senior engineers at Nuclear Electric, which operates seven Magnox stations in England and Wales, believe that life spans of 45 years or more may be feasible.

The company has said that it may want to run its stations, once expected to last 20 to 25 years, longer than 30 years but has indicated that 36 years in private, longer terms are being suggested.

Clive Smitten, director of generation of Magnox and pressurised water reactors with Nuclear Electric, said yesterday: "If we could get to 40 years, which is reasonably probable from where we stand now, 45 years is possible."

Extending service beyond 45 years would depend on the condition of key components, particularly the core's graphite containment, which might prove impossible to replace, he said.

The disclosure comes as officials at Scottish Nuclear are mid-way through studies on their Magnox station, Hunterston A in Strathclyde. The station was shut in 1989

## Police hunt driver who crushed man's leg

Police were last night hunting the driver of a car that was used to run in to a man in his early twenties. Kevin Foot lost a leg after being crushed against a bus shelter on Canvey Island, Essex.

The incident followed an argument between Mr Foot and his friends and three people in a silver BMW 320. Mr Foot was taken to hospital but doctors were unable to save his leg. Police later found the BMW abandoned and on fire.

## Passengers in airport scare

Emergency services rushed to Gatwick after a North West Orient Boeing 747 with more than 400 passengers from America had problems with its hydraulic gear.

The plane was able to land safely using a secondary back-up system.

## Comedy twins

Ulverston, in Cumbria, where the comedian Stan Laurel was born more than a century ago is to be twinned with Harlem City, Georgia, USA, birthplace of Laurel's partner, Oliver Hardy.

## Tunnel walk

Up to 35,000 people are expected to join a charity walk through the A55 tunnel beneath the estuary at Conwy, Gwynedd, on Sunday. The Queen will open the traffic-only tunnel next month.

## Sex complaints

Sixteen men in the health union Cobse returned a questionnaire aimed at women, saying they suffered from suggestive remarks, jokes, or touching from superiors or psychiatric patients.

## Murder charge

Christopher Gore, aged 26, will appear at Cirencester magistrates' court tomorrow charged with murdering his parents at their home in Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

## Crash kills 3

Three people died and one was seriously injured when their car spun off the road and crashed into a tree on the A12 at Gorleston, Norfolk.

## Jail escape

Four prisoners escaped from Wayland jail, near Watton, Norfolk, after cutting a hole in the perimeter fence.

## Bond winners

Winners in the weekly Premium Bonds draw are: £100,000, bond number 3472 696418, winner comes from Middlesbrough (value of holding, £500); £50,000, 3LK 909581, East Sussex (£196); £25,000, 4BB 785143 Newcastle-under-Lyme (£11).

## Rushdie book honoured

SALMAN Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* was last night named best children's novel by the Writers' Guild of Great Britain. The author has been in hiding for more than two years since Ayatollah Khomeini ordered his death for alleged blasphemy in *The Satanic Verses*.

*Dancing at Lughnasa*, by the Dubliner Brian Friel, was named best Irish play at the ceremony at the Dorchester hotel in London. The work has already won him an Olivier award.

The guild made a special award to William Goldman, the Hollywood screenwriter, for his lifetime contribution to writing. Goldman worked on *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *All the President's Men* and *Marathon Man*.

Other awards were: Best original radio play: Don Haworth for *Marching Band* (BBC); Best radio comedy: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best radio play: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television play: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television comedy: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television drama: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television film: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television series: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television documentary: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television feature: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television news: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television current affairs: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television sport: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television entertainment: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television children's: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television factual: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television history: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television science: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television nature: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); Best television travel: *Swimming in Time* (BBC); 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## Envoys say peace talks depend on hostage deals

FROM ALI JABER IN BEIRUT AND SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE intricate diplomacy aimed at piecing together a resolution of the hostage crisis is linked to efforts to convene a comprehensive Middle East peace conference next month, Western diplomats in the region said yesterday.

Fundamentalist leaders and diplomats in Beirut believe that the gradual release of captives and prisoners which the United Nations secretary-general, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, is trying to arrange is one of the Arab prerequisites for the conference. The London-based Arab newspaper *al-Hayat* claimed that Israel and Iran were involved in drawing up a timetable for hostage releases at a secret meeting in Istanbul in June.

The UN secretary-general's ability to bring together opposing forces, such as Israel and Hezbollah, could prove instrumental in ensuring the

success of the conference. The UN was indirectly involved in the agreement by Israel to release 51 Arab prisoners and nine bodies of guerrillas in return for information on missing Israeli soldiers.

The move could lead to the release from Khayam prison, in Israel's "security zone" in southern Lebanon, of 350 Lebanese. It could also prestage the release from secret hideouts in Beirut's suburbs of the remaining Western hostages.

Although no specific date has been set yet to convene the peace conference, its sponsors, the United States and the Soviet Union, have declared it would take place in October. *al-Hayat* said that maintaining the momentum of efforts to free the hostages and prisoners depended on keeping October as the prospective date to start talks between

Israel and its Arab neighbours.

One fundamentalist leader said he believed that both Syria and the United States were pushing for the hostages to be released before they could be used as bargaining chips to block the talks. He said that the Americans must convince Israel to soften its stand on its prisoners. It was up to Syria to persuade Iran to reciprocate with similar leniency on the hostages.

The recent block in the hostage negotiations, broken by the prisoners exchange, occurred when fears prevailed that the peace conference could be postponed. The failed coup against President Gorbachev and Israel's stiff position on Palestinian representation in the conference threatened to delay both the conference and movement on the hostages.

But the Soviet counter-revolution and the recent stand by President Bush on loan guarantees for Israel restored hopes that the conference could convene as scheduled.

Moshe Arens, the Israeli defence minister, played the role of conciliator yesterday in the row over the loan guarantees, but he took a hard line on the hostage issue, saying Israel would not release Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid in the next batch of Arab prisoners because he is "probably the best card" the West has.

Mr Arens said his government had no news about when to expect the release of further Western hostages but was pinning hopes on the UN secretary-general. Israel feared that the release of Western hostages and its soldiers held as prisoners could stop if Sheikh Obeid was released.

Brent Scowcroft, the White House national security adviser, also tried to smooth over the public rift with Israel. Mr Scowcroft refused to describe Mr Bush as angry and declined to give an opinion about whether Jews had the right to live in East Jerusalem



Deadly aim: a Palestinian fighter practising pistol skills in the past few days near the occupied West Bank town of Jenin, where an Israeli soldier was killed in a weekend ambush. Israel yesterday imposed a curfew in the area

## Israeli minister attacks 'liar' Bush

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

RIGHT-WING members of Israel's government yesterday intensified their verbal assault on President Bush, with one hardline minister calling him a "lying anti-Semite".

In an extraordinary outburst against the leader of Israel's main ally, Rehavam Zeevi, minister without portfolio, who heads the tiny Mokedet party, told his colleagues at the weekly cabinet meeting that Israel should delay its attendance at any Middle East peace conference until Washington had approved housing loan guarantees of \$10 billion (£5.7 billion) to help absorb Soviet immigrants.

"Minister Zeevi offered unprecedented criticism of President Bush and called him an anti-Semite," said a ministerial aide. Mr Zeevi "accused President Bush of being a liar, of using cheap demagoguery by saying Israel is

asking for financial aid rather than merely guarantees while by comparison giving billions of dollars of aid to Egypt".

Although Mr Zeevi's views are unlikely to have any significant impact on the coalition government's handling of relations with Washington, his remarks did reflect growing apprehension among many Israelis, particularly on the right, who regard President Bush and key members of his administration as pro-Arab and hostile to Israel.

Ehud Olmert, the health minister, told his colleagues that for some time he had harboured suspicions about President Bush's real commitment to Israel and added that the president displayed none of his predecessor's emotional ties to it.

The backlash in Israel was caused by President Bush's remarks last week, when he pointed out that America

subsidised the country to the tune of almost \$1,000 a year for every Israeli man, woman and child, but that he wanted to postpone the loan guarantee request 120 days, until after the Middle East peace conference started next month.

The announcement prompted a show of force by American Jewish lobbyists who vowed to defeat President Bush's postponement plan in Congress.

Yesterday, Israeli officials tried to play down the row and predicted that tempers would be cooled during talks today in Jerusalem between Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, and James Baker, the Secretary of State, who is beginning another tour of the Middle East, in an effort to tie up details of the peace talks.

While the row between the two allies may cause consternation among Israelis, not surprisingly it has been

## Baghdad party scorns Hammadi

Baghdad - Saddam Hammadi, the Iraqi prime minister dismissed on Friday, was humiliated in a ruling Baath party poll earlier this day, Iraq's state-run media reported yesterday.

Official newspapers, giving results of the Friday ballot at the end of a two-day party congress, said he finished 39th out of 42 candidates for the party's 16-member regional command. Mr Hammadi, appointed six months ago, was supported by only 27 of the 261 delegates eligible to cast votes for the 16 places. He was replaced by one of his deputies, Hamza al-Zubeidi.

Topping the poll with 257 votes was the veteran politician, Izzat Ibrahim, who was re-elected deputy leader. President Saddam Hussein, who was standing unopposed, was unanimously re-elected as the secretary-general of the party. (Reuters)

## Hunger strike

Algiers - Abassi Madani, aged 60, the imprisoned leader of Algeria's main Muslim fundamentalist party, is suffering internal bleeding after more than a week on hunger strike and Ali Belhadi, aged 37, his deputy, has been taken to hospital, according to the national support committee of political prisoners. (AP)

## Treasures back

Kuwait - Kuwait expects to receive the first shipment by United Nations aircraft today of Islamic art treasures looted by Iraq during its seven-month occupation. The emirate's two principle museums were stripped of some 17,000 artefacts. Returning them all is expected to take about two weeks. (Reuters)

## Bodies plea

Baghdad - Iraq wants to recover the remains of its troops buried alive by American forces in the Gulf war and called on world organisations to condemn this "odious crime". (Reuters)

Assembly  
Recrimination  
signing  
South A  
Munich's  
attack 'ret

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# Assembly searches for leader to grapple with new world order



Prince Sadruddin: the current favourite to head the United Nations

WHEN the 45th annual United Nations General Assembly session met this time last year, the Soviet Union was still the Soviet Union, with the Baltic republics fully incorporated and other republics showing only the first signs of moves toward secession. There was little hope of freedom for John McCarthy and other Lebanese hostages, the prospect of a Middle East peace conference was remote, and the Gulf confrontation had only just begun, with war against Iraq far on the horizon. Mrs Thatcher was still prime minister, and Germany was still in two halves.

Tomorrow the 46th general assembly represents a very different world. It will begin the process of choosing a new secretary-general who will have to cope with the tumultuous changes facing the UN. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, who is enjoying a last "hurrah" over his crucial involvement in freeing Western hostages held in Lebanon, is due to retire on December 31 at the end of his second five-year term.

## James Bone in New York assesses the strength of the political backing for the rival candidates lining up to succeed Javier Pérez de Cuéllar as the secretary-general of the United Nations

The old balance of power in the United Nations, which pitted West-

ern nations against the Soviet bloc and the third world, has almost completely disappeared, with the developing nations deeply divided over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and communism now as anachronistic as some of the more esoteric UN committees.

Africans nations are likely to learn a hard lesson during this year's assembly about their lack of power. African leaders claim it is their continent's turn to provide the UN chief, and have presented several candidates, including Olusegun Obasanjo, the former Nigerian president, Bernard Chidzero, the Zimbabwean finance minister, James

Jonah, the UN undersecretary-general from Sierra Leone, Kenneth Dadzie of Ghana, and Nguma Francois Owono of Ghana. But other nations seem unconvinced.

As the three-month general assembly debate begins, the leading candidates are Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, a jet-setting aristocrat who now heads the UN humanitarian operation in Iraq, and Boutros Ghali, the Egyptian's deputy prime minister. At 68, Mr Ghali seems a little like a repeat of Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, who is three years his senior.

Mr Ghali's candidacy seems to have the tentative support of France and China, two of the five veto-bearing permanent members of 15-nation security council. But the

Africans are unhappy because, although technically an African, he is not black, and the Arabs are annoyed because he is a Christian, not a Muslim. Middle Eastern diplomats theorise that Mr Ghali was presented as a compromise candidate because Amr Moussa, Egypt's former UN ambassador who this year became the Egyptian foreign minister, wanted to remove him as the guru of Egyptian foreign policy. And, even though Mr Ghali took part in the Camp David peace accords between Egypt and Israel, the Americans remain sceptical about having an Arab secretary-general who would have to serve as the UN observer in a forthcoming Middle East peace conference.

The favourite at this stage is probably Prince Sadruddin, the Ismaili leader who has been campaigning for the job for 20 years. When Señor Pérez de Cuéllar was elected in 1981, Prince Sadruddin lost only because he was vetoed by the Soviet Union. As the UN relief chief after the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, the for-

mer UN high commissioner for refugees was accused of trying to woo Moscow at the expense of the Afghan resistance. But now, with the Soviet Union in disarray, a Soviet veto no longer provides a serious threat to his candidacy.

A close friend and tennis partner of President Bush, Prince Sadruddin has already won an endorsement from Jeane Kirkpatrick, the hawkish former American UN envoy.

British diplomats suggest privately that Britain may seek to draft Gro Harlem Brundtland, the prime minister of Norway, who earned wide respect for her chairmanship of a UN committee which prepared a magnum opus on development and the environment. If called on to take the top UN job she would be the first woman secretary-general.

Britain's main requirement for a secretary-general is that the person will be able to handle the demands of the revived organisation, which has begun to undertake such unprecedented responsibilities as disarming Iraq and organising Iraqi oil sales.



Ghali: backed by China and France, but Africans are not pleased

## Recriminations mar signing of pact on South Africa peace

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

WITH massed Zulus flaunting their "traditional" spears and clubs outside the hotel and a squadron of police armoured personnel carriers parked menacingly nearby, 29 political and trade union organisations signed an historic peace accord with the state at the weekend designed to end the violence that has claimed 11,000 lives in South Africa since 1984 and more than 120 in the past week.

But even as the document was being signed in a Johannesburg hotel, supporters of the official white opposition Conservative party were roaring their support for violence and rebellion against dismantling of apartheid at their congress in Pretoria, 35 miles away. The presence of a huge armed crowd of Zulus from the Inkatha Freedom

party in the centre of Johannesburg, ignoring police orders to disperse, prompted an angry outburst from Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, which revealed just how deep-rooted divisions have become. In an icy exchange with President de Klerk at a press conference after the signing, he said that if the crowd had consisted of ANC supporters, the police would not have hesitated to disperse them and used firearms to do so if they had refused to move.

President de Klerk said the security forces were totally impartial, and he had given orders that if ANC supporters gathered they should be accorded the same treatment as Inkatha. Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader who signed the accord al-

though he expressed scepticism last week, said it was Zulu tradition to bear weapons in the presence of their monarch, King Goodwill Zwelithini. "That is why I am carrying one," he said. He held a small, ornamental knobkerrie across the knees of his smart blue suit.

Soon afterwards, a group of Zulus was attacked in Johannesburg by a panga-wielding mob and one man was backed to death. In the 24 hours leading to the signing of the peace accord, at least 24 people died in nationwide violence.

The accord, drawn up after an initiative organised by business and church leaders, sets out codes of conduct for the police and political parties. An ombudsman will be appointed to investigate complaints against the police, and special criminal courts will be established to hear cases involving political violence. A standing committee of enquiry into the causes of violence will be established, as well as a permanent national peace secretariat and regional and local disputes resolution committees.

The accord will be coming into effect over the next few weeks, beginning with the appointment of a national peace committee to oversee the whole process. A code of conduct for the South African Defence Force has still to be negotiated and, although the accord calls for the dismantling of private armies, Mr Mandela declared after the signing ceremony that the ANC would not disband its armed wing, Umkonto we Sizwe. He said its future was the subject of talks between the government and the ANC.

President de Klerk described the accord as a first step on the arduous road to peace. Mr Mandela called for support from the international community and the United Nations General Assembly to pronounce publicly that no member state would give any kind of support to organisations that have not signed this accord.

The Pan Africanist Congress and the Azanian People's Organisation were among radical organisations attending the convention who pledged their commitment to peace. But they did not sign the accord on the ground that this would give credibility to the police and an "illegal" government.

## Mugabe's critics attack 'reforms'

FROM JAN RAATH AND SAM KILEY IN HARARE

FOR a few days recently the gigantic *jongwe* (cockle) which sits atop the headquarters of President Mugabe's ruling Patriotic Front in Harare was taken down. Some thought the party might honour the 1987 merger agreement with its former nemesis ZAPU, and abandon old symbols in favour of a new logo drawn from ancient Zimbabwe.

But the cockle reappeared. It now sports flashy grey feather leggings and a new scarlet comb, and is matched by a new *jongwe* on the south side of the £4 million complex. Opponents say that far from losing power since Mr Mugabe formally abandoned his attempts to impose a one-party state earlier this year, the front appears to be trying to increase its control over central government.

Last week Mr Mugabe assured Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, that he was enthusiastic about British attempts to press members of the Commonwealth to join in with the general world trend in democratisation and to put "good governance" high on the agenda for next month's Commonwealth heads of government conference in Harare. But Mr Mugabe's 49 fellow leaders may be unable to suppress ironic sniggers if

their chairman fails to settle a bitter political row over the public financing of his own party of about £5.5 million a year, through the department of political affairs. Critics like Luke Mhlabane, a senior lecturer in public law at the university here, say that the power of Zanu, through the department of political affairs, which at seven has the largest number of ministers in the administration, means that Zimbabwe is now a de facto one-party state. The department, Mr Mhlabane said, is using taxpayers' money to undermine the multi-party principle which is at the core of the constitution.

But opponents acknowledge that Mr Mugabe owes favours to old comrades-in-arms during the Rhodesian war. Moven Mahachi, the home affairs minister, is explicit about this and says in the current issue of *Horizon* magazine that Zanu has "brought peace and tranquility to Zimbabwe" and the country therefore owes the party a lot.

While Mr Hurd is anxious to increase the accountability of Commonwealth governments, Mr Mahachi recently proposed a new rule which would give control over civil service pay and discipline to his party.



Duty calls: Simon Wong, a policeman, and his bride Vivian making time to vote in Hong Kong's first direct elections. They said they felt obliged to take part

## Low turnout in colony poll deals blow to democrats

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

BOTH Peking and proponents of democracy got short shrift from Hong Kong voters at the weekend who turned out in unexpectedly low numbers for the colony's first direct elections.

With barely 40 per cent of the electorate voting, fears have been raised that China may see the election as confirmation of Hong Kong's lack of interest in democracy. Under the colony's system of limited democracy, only 18 of the legislature's 60 seats were contested.

The British government was thought likely to use the low turnout as an excuse to renege on its promise to approach China for more directly elected seats at the next elec-

tions in 1995, should this year's polls prove a "success". But Sir David Wilson, the governor of Hong Kong, said last night that success would also be measured by the way the new councillors work within the legislature.

An exit poll which was conducted by the local TVB television station suggested that pro-China candidates had done worse than expected. The Liberal Democrats, which are led by Martin Lee, and allied liberal groups, Meeting Point and the Association for People's Livelihood and Democracy, were forging ahead of the two strongest pro-China candidates.

It was thought the liberals would be likely to appeal to a

younger constituency more committed to winning a say in the territory's future. Young voters, born in Hong Kong and without their parents' experience of life under Communist rule, were also believed less prone to intimidation by veiled warnings in semi-official newspapers that liberal politicians could spoil Hong Kong's relationship with China and undermine the colony's stability and prosperity. George Foulkes, the Labour party's foreign affairs spokesman, who was in Hong Kong to monitor the elections, said he was impressed by how the polling had been conducted. "It reminds me of any democratic country," he said.

## Senate to grill CIA nominee on Iran arms

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

AS A handful of Democrats start to chance the 1992 presidential race, the biggest scandal of the Reagan years, the Iran-Contra affair, is back to haunt President Bush's choice to head the CIA.

Mr Bush nominated Robert Gates four months ago when the public recognised the deputy national security adviser's boyish face and silver hair from pictures of the president's counsellors during the Gulf war. In recent days, however, Mr Gates has slipped from view to rehearse his responses at the Senate intelligence committee.

The confirmation hearings, starting today, are expected to be bumpy. At issue is what the former deputy head of the CIA knew about the illegal arms sale to Iran in the 1980s and the transfer of profits to the Contra rebels of Nicaragua. Democrats on Capitol Hill may use the affair, now a blur to most Americans, to emphasise the antagonism between Mr Bush and Congress on a range of topics, including civil rights, the economy, defence, and his choice of a conservative judge, Clarence Thomas, for the Supreme Court. Mr Gates has also been hit by media reports linking the CIA to the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

Mr Gates is in line to head the CIA at a time that it is under pressure to cut its budget to fit the new world order. His detractors do not want to see a Sovietologist of the hardline school in charge of US intelligence now that communism has fallen in Moscow.

Patrick Moynihan, a Democrat senator from New York, has even proposed disbanding the CIA and turning over its functions to the State Department. Sam Nunn, a conservative Democrat from Georgia, told *NBC News* yesterday that Mr Gates faced big questions about "his credibility" although he would "like to be able" to vote for him.

Mr Bush took the unusual step last week of buying \$5,000 (£2,900) of satellite time with taxpayers' money to broadcast an endorsement of Mr Gates. Technical hitches eventually forced him to hand out tapes to television networks, which all but ignored them.

Conservatives claim August's coup against President Gorbachev showed that Mr Gates was right to insist the Soviet leader's reform efforts would not work. But Democrats contend that Mr Gates

## Noriega goes on trial

Miami - The long-awaited trial of General Manuel Noriega on drugs trafficking charges starts here today, before a jury dominated by middle-aged black women (Alan Tomlinson writes).

A panel of nine women and three men was sworn in late on Friday after six days of rigorous questioning. Frank Rubino, defence counsel, said during the screening process: "We are looking for an intelligent, articulate, well-read jury, one that is familiar with foreign affairs and will know this is not the first time the United States has destabilised a foreign government." The defence will contend that Washington framed the general, the former de facto leader of Panama captured in the American invasion of 1989, in a political vendetta.

If they perceive him as a victim, the working-class black women on the jury may have reason to sympathise with the defendant, but some of them expressed deep distaste for drugs and drug pushers. The hearing may last six months.

## Satellite hiccup

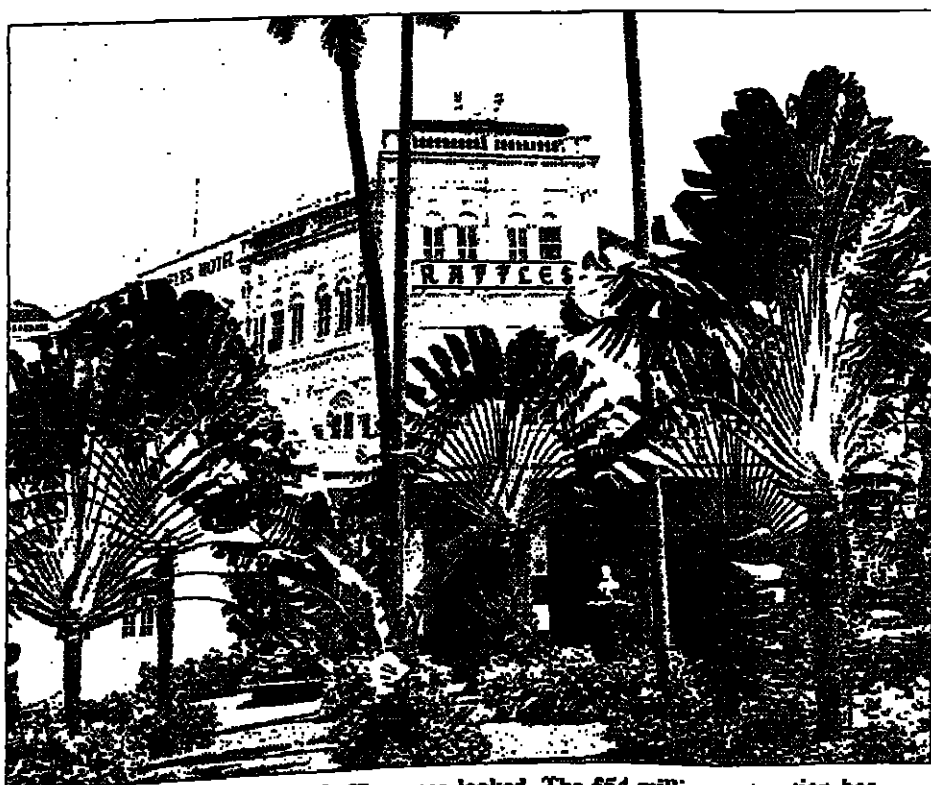
Cape Canaveral - A \$633 million (£364 million) environmental research satellite suffered communications troubles after its release yesterday from the Discovery space shuttle but ground engineers later corrected the problem. The hitch was not expected to affect the 28-month mission to study the effects of pollution on the atmosphere. (Reuters)

## Dog kills baby

Sydney - An Australian family's bull terrier killed a two-month-old baby boy while his mother was hanging out washing in the backyard of their home near Sydney. The baby was lying on the ground in a cradle when, without warning, the dog took hold of the baby's head and dragged him from the bassinet. (Reuters)

## Flying squad

Paris - French police were searching for the pilot of a stolen single-engine stunt plane which flew under the Eiffel Tower and then down the Champs Elysées and under the Arc de Triomphe, breaking all French laws against overflying the capital. The plane was abandoned in a field. (AP)



Garden of delight: how Raffles once looked. The \$54 million restoration has brought new features at prices that would make Somerset Maugham shy away

## Raffles just the ticket for opulence

FROM MARY LEE IN SINGAPORE

RAFFLES Hotel reopens today restored to its prewar glory but charging prices that would make even Somerset Maugham blench.

The hotel that brought the first electric light and fans to the Orient and hosted the world's most glamorous writers, actors and politicians, could hardly have looked as good in its heyday. But the seductive atmosphere of seedy sleepiness has been swept away by the \$54 million restoration which took two and a half years. Gone, too, are the bad-tempered Shanghai waiters.

It is now an exquisitely elegant hotel of 104 suites, costing £200 to £2,000 a night, furnished with Persian rugs over polished wooden floors and period furniture. But for aspiring modern Maughams, the cost is more

than likely to cause severe writer's block.

Within two months, Raffles Hotel will have its own museum shop. The Sir Stamford Raffles suite, the most expensive, with two bedrooms, a sitting room and its own dining room, also has the longest private balcony ever, overlooking a private courtyard.

If guests are ignorant of the past, there are leather-bound copies of books of Sir Stamford and his contemporaries gracing the shelves of the suite.

The grand entrance and the landings on the upper two floors are decorated with breathtaking floral arrangements set in a typically English style, designed by Kenneth Turner, a Briton. Sir Hugh Casson has painted a specially commissioned

watercolour. The hotel has reinstated the Raffles Grill, seating 82, which has already been booked solid for the next few weeks. Parties of more than 14 are discouraged - they will not be able to sit together.

Also open are the Writers' Bar and the Bar and Billiard Room in which a tiger was shot in 1902 by C. M. Phillips of Raffles Institution (the school once located across the road). The hotel's main dining room will serve tiffin curry for both lunch and dinner.

On November 1, the famous Long Bar will reopen with modern additions to the old Raffles - a 400-seat Victorian style playhouse called Jubilee Hall, more restaurants and a ring of shops. The post office has provided the hotel with a

special date stamp commemorating the reopening.

Raffles Hotel used to be the Raffles boarding school which was bought and turned into a hotel by the Armenian Sarkies brothers 104 years ago. The Sarkies also owned the E & O Hotel in Penang and the Strand in Rangoon.

The Raffles is now jointly owned by DBS Land, part of the Singapore government-controlled DBS Bank and one of the largest Singapore banks, the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation.

The new Raffles' magnetism in an utterly modern and proudly independent Singapore was visible yesterday, when scores of tourists braved the heavy stream of traffic on Beach Road to photograph the revitalised "grand old lady".



## Soviet leadership to thrash out economic union

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet Union's new top executive body, the State Council, meets in Moscow today to hammer out the vexed question of economic union. The meeting, which has been brought forward by two days, finds the economic reform lobbies at daggers drawn over the degree of economic centralisation.

One head is already on the block. Ivan Silayev, prime minister of the Russian Federation and chairman of the interim committee on the economy, which was appointed to perform the functions of the Soviet government after last month's coup, said last week that he would step down today after another member of the committee reportedly accused him of putting Russia's interests first. The accusation levelled at

Mr Silayev was revealing in that it blamed him for promoting the interests of Russia at the expense of other republics and the centre. Although the interim committee consists of only four people, it appears to be split at least three ways on what powers the centre should retain.

Yuri Luzhkov, who reportedly criticised Mr Silayev, favours a continuing role for the centre. Arkadi Volynsky, a close associate of President Gorbachev, launched his favoured economic reform draft last week, which advocated a continuing role for a strong centre. Grigori Yavlinsky presented his own programme, which also advocates a single currency, a single central bank and other central economic institutions. Mr Silayev is a devolutionist, but he is also a

fighter. Two days after announcing his intention to resign from the interim committee last week, he said he would allow the State Council to take the final decision. This was a well calculated move.

The State Council consists of whichever republic leaders choose to attend, plus President Gorbachev. At the council's first meeting ten days ago, President Gorbachev also invited representatives of the central administration, including the interim committee, but if the letter of the law on new administrative structures is taken seriously, only republican leaders and Mr Gorbachev have a vote on policy decisions.

Among republican heads, opinion is swinging away from any role for the centre except that of co-ordinator or chairman. This means that at today's meeting Mr Silayev may attract considerable support.

At the weekend, one of the participants, Askar Akayev, the president of the Central Asian republic of Kirghizia and a strong supporter of economic devolution, said that he would be speaking against the continued existence of an economic centre.

He said he intended to propose four people to head the inter-republic committee, among them the Ukrainian prime minister, Nursultan Nazarbayev, the president of Kazakhstan — and Mr Silayev. All three are devolutionists.

Mr Akayev, who wields considerable influence among republican leaders, will propose a series of inter-republic commissions to oversee individual areas of the economy which cross republic boundaries, such as energy, communications and transport.

● Budget deficit: The interim committee on the economy has been told that the internal budget deficit could reach 144 billion roubles (£14.4 billion at the official tourist rate) by the end of the year, more than five times the figure envisaged in the budget.



Old guard: Said Ali Osmaev, aged 74, proudly displaying his 1910 Mauser during a protest by Ingush people at Grozny, in the Checheno-Ingushetia region of Georgia, for independence and against the republic's government which failed to condemn last month's failed Soviet coup. Thousands of Ingush were deported by Stalin during the second world war to Kazakhstan and are now returning to demand their homeland.

A campaign by Georgia's opposition movement to oust President Gamsakhurdia, which has brought chaos to the historic city of Tbilisi, the republic's capital, and caused a dangerous split in local security forces, will come to a head today (Bruce Clark writes from Moscow). As the Georgian parliament meets in closed session, opposition supporters will gather nearby to hear an address by Tengiz Sigua, the former prime minister, sacked by the president last month.

## Ukraine to use nuclear stock as bargaining chip

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

THE Soviet Union's strategic missile stockpile of some 200 nuclear weapons on Ukrainian soil is evolving into a potent political factor in the republic's campaign for international recognition.

The Ukrainian government wants to assume full control over the weapons in December, after the referendum which is expected to endorse last month's declaration of independence. It would then seek the support of the United Nations to supply funds and to oversee the destruction of the arsenal.

"After the referendum we will have the full authority and power to act," Leonid Tanyuk, a senior Supreme Soviet deputy, said yesterday. But the situation is not as simple as that.

The government here is under no illusion about who actually controls missiles on the republic's territory at the moment. "The Ukrainian military exerts no control over these nuclear weapons," Major-General Konstantin Morozov, the republic's first defence minister, said.

There is no guarantee of the Western powers recognising the Ukraine's right to destroy the arms and risking encroaching an ultra-sensitive area of Soviet strategic policy. The line emerging from Moscow is very different from the Kiev version. The Soviet authorities have reportedly told James Baker, the American Secretary of State, that the Ukraine was voluntarily relinquishing its weapons, which will be removed to the Russian Federation, still under the control of Soviet missile command.

Leading Ukrainians do not want that. Vyacheslav Chornovil, a presidential candidate, said: "I am absolutely against nuclear weapons being taken to Russia before we have our own army."

Ivan Drach, chairman of the Rukh democratic umbrella group, the most powerful legal political movement in the republic, said: "The strategic missile command force is part of a union we no longer

want. As long as we have this so-called joint command, we stay within the borders of the Soviet Union. This is something we no longer accept."

The Ukrainian delegation to Moscow last week agreed to do nothing about the present status of nuclear forces on its territory. For the present, the Ukraine has its hands full trying to form its own armed forces.

General Morozov said: "We reject the idea of a unified military command. Our approach will be step-by-step towards an independent Ukrainian army. We are dealing with a very complex subject."

The Soviet army's role in society was to provide a common identity for the state's 100-odd main ethnic groups dispersed throughout the 15 former republics. Ukrainians served in units in every republic and soldiers from dozens of different national ethnic groups are posted to the Ukraine.

It will be a delicate task to withdraw Ukrainians from other republics and to send home Slavs, Central Asians and Transcaucasian troops without triggering mass desertions from the Soviet army.

There are an estimated 1.2 million men under arms in the Ukraine.

If dividing up the Soviet army is difficult enough, separating the navy into its constituent parts will be even more troublesome, especially the Black Sea fleet based in the Crimea. Politicians in Kiev are already airing ideas for the fleet to be split between the three republics with Black Sea shores, Russia, the Ukraine and Georgia.

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## US gives Baltic states £8m aid

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

Vilnius — On a whistlestop tour of the Baltic states this weekend, James Baker, the American Secretary of State, pledged the three countries \$14 million (£8 million) in immediate aid from Washington (Anatoli Lieven writes).

His talks with Baltic leaders included consideration of the status of the Polish minority in Lithuania, and Lithuanian demands for the rapid withdrawal of Soviet troops. The aid package is intended as an interim measure only, with America expected to offer more money at the beginning of the next financial year.

Mr Baker pledged help in building independent state and economic structures, and support for their moves to join international bodies. Baltic representatives are in New York today for the official admission of their states to the United Nations. Mr Baker also gave the three leaders the Baltic national flags which have hung in the State Department since the 1920s.

Coup evidence

Moscow — President Gorbachev spent two hours giving evidence to officers investigating last month's coup. *Izvestia* said it was the first time a Soviet leader had placed himself under the law. "This is such a natural occurrence in any law-governed country that no one outside our country can understand our delight."

Armenians freed

Moscow — Seventy Armenian train passengers taken hostage by Azerbaijanis have been released, but 14 others are still unaccounted for, the Azerbaijan news agency said. The hostages were taken on Friday in protest against the kidnapping by Armenians of two Azerbaijani shepherds, whose bodies were found later. (AFP)

General fired

Moscow — Major-General Valery Marchenkov, chief of the tank division involved in the deaths of three men during the Soviet coup, was dismissed just after visiting French officials left, the Russian government's news agency said. (AP)

## Lenin's niece acts to stop reburial

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW

LENIN's niece has demanded a referendum before the Bolshevik leader's body can be moved from his mausoleum.

As rumours swept Moscow this weekend that Lenin would soon be moved from the pink granite building, Olga Ulyanova said in a letter to *Pravda* that he had never expressed a wish to be buried beside his mother in St Petersburg. The commandant of the Kremlin complex denied the rumours, which have met with a furious reaction from older Communists.

The Party of Communists, a Moscow splinter group trying to set itself up as a successor to the suspended Communist party, said the removal of Lenin from the mausoleum would be vandalism and against the law. A group of demonstrators surrounded the Lenin museum in Red Square at the weekend, carrying placards that read "Hands off

Lenin!" and denouncing media criticism of him as an insult to Soviet history.

Ms Ulyanova's letter said the removal of the body would lead to the destruction of the mausoleum, which has served as the altar of communism at which his memory was celebrated by Soviet leaders taking the salute at May and November parades. She added that if her uncle were reburied, "the grave... would become a place for jeering at the dust of Vladimir Lenin."

President Gorbachev was effusive in his praise of Lenin at the 120th anniversary celebrations of his birth last year, but has kept silent as the debunking gathers pace. He has agreed to allow a debate on Lenin's reburial. Ms Ulyanova asked in her letter: "Why does M. S. Gorbachev not defend V. I. Lenin now?"

New look at history, page 26

## Polish MPs sabotage Bielecki's reforms

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

POLAND's ambitious market reform and anti-inflation programme was paralysed yesterday after parliament rejected the Solidarity government's appeal for special emergency powers. The prime minister, Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, told parliament (Sejm) on Saturday that the request for special powers represented "a cry of despair". But many deputies, especially the former communists who still have a decisive say, were unmoved.

The prime minister needed a two-thirds majority to secure the necessary powers, but gained only a simple majority.

He and his cabinet ostentatiously left their benches and walked out of the chamber.

Mr Bielecki, who earlier this month threatened to resign, said afterwards that he would continue in office but emphasised that the "government is in deep trouble". The special powers would have enabled his administration to put a lid on all civil service wages, given it more muscle in dealing with wage inflation, and allowed it to make radical cuts in the bureaucracy.

It is saddled with a big budget deficit and wants to make deep cuts in social

spending. But with a general election on October 27, parliament is resisting any tough austerity measures. Parliament is still composed along the lines of the 1989 round-table agreement that awarded the Communist party and its allies two-thirds of the seats. Now the former Communists are nervous that they will lose their seats in Poland's first fully free elections and are determined to avoid taking unpopular decisions.

A mixed-party parliamentary committee had already whittled down Mr Bielecki's requested package of emergency powers. Civil service salaries were to be frozen only for 1991, and not for two years as he had demanded.

The government would be allowed to make cuts in social services but would be authorised to take out a foreign credit of £117 million to support the health services. The government would not be given special powers in local council financing. The prime minister accepted these limitations on his proposed emergency laws and had hoped that parliament would thus give him the two-thirds approval needed for a constitutional amendment.

The weekend parliamentary snub means that few serious anti-inflation measures can be taken before the election. Moreover, the polls may well bring to power a coalition that drops the finance minister, Professor Leszek Balcerowicz, the architect of the nation's market reforms.

There is thus a real risk that Poland's economic management will be cut adrift and that Western investors will lose confidence in the country. That, at any rate, was the word from some of President Walesa's advisers yesterday. He is expected to use his considerable, and only vaguely defined, powers to break the political impasse.

● Trip cancelled: Poland has cancelled a visit by Krzysztof Skubiszewski, its foreign minister, to Lithuania amid disagreements over the rights of the Baltic state's Polish minority. Talks between the two countries' officials in Vilnius had failed to reach agreement. Lithuania angered Poland last week when it dissolved two local government councils in predominantly Polish areas. (Reuters)



Solzhenitsyn: refused offer of return last year

## Russian novelist expects to go home

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

ALEXANDER Solzhenitsyn, the novelist who did most to expose the brutalities of Stalinist repression and the labour camps, expects to return to Russia now that communist rule has collapsed. But he will only do so when the treason charge against him is dropped.

Mr Solzhenitsyn, who was expelled in 1974, delivered his first reaction to the upheaval in his homeland when he made a rare appearance in Cavendish, the Vermont town where he lives in seclusion with his family. "We'll definitely go back home to Russia. I said a long time ago that I definitely will return and that stays intact," he said.

The reform movement made it likely that the treason charge, brought by the KGB in 1974 would be cancelled, he said. "Without these events, my return was completely out of the question. Under the rule of the KGB and the Communist party, whom I always fought with, I could not return." Last year, he rejected an invitation from the Kremlin to return home with his citizenship, removed stripped by Leonid Brezhnev, restored.

Mr Solzhenitsyn, who became the towering figure of Russian letters in the stagnant Brezhnev era, has increasingly turned towards the spiritual values of old Russia, with its hierarchies of the Orthodox church and tsar, and away from what he sees as the corruption of Western-style democracy and consumerism.

## French left lines up Delors return

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES Delors, whose name is inextricably linked with the European Community's 1992 single market programme, looks increasingly likely to resume his political career in France in the very year he has made so famous.

French opinion polls regularly show M Delors, who celebrated his 67th birthday this summer, as the only Socialist party politician of any experience who is popular with the voters. A poll published at the weekend revealed that one French voter in three would like M Delors to be the next president. His 33 per cent was 11 points more than that of his nearest socialist rival, Michel Rocard, the former prime minister.

The chaotic changes across Europe of the past few weeks have left President Mitterrand paralysed. Responding to the twin blows dealt to socialism and federalism, M Delors has displayed agile footwork and intellectual resilience. Socialist bosses believe that he may be the only one who can revive the party. So serious is the deterioration of the party's health that "Dr Delors" (as *Le Monde* calls him) may be recalled to Paris early next year before his second four-year term as president of the EC's executive commission is over.

The EC's rolling programme of single market laws is not due to be completed until the end of 1992, but the community's treaty conferences on monetary and political union should be finished by the end of this year. M Delors would then be free to accept the prime ministership in succession to the hapless Edith Cresson. Such a move is probably M Delors' best shot at capturing the Socialist nomination for the presidential election of 1995. M Mitterrand, although he confirmed his confidence in Mme Cresson at a press conference last week, was careful to drop in a few admiring references to M Delors. M Delors made a highly successful speech to the Socialist party's summer school on the virtues of a renovated socialism, balanced between economic rigour and social compassion.

The speech was the highlight of a gathering otherwise overshadowed by gloomy introspection over the after-effects of the Moscow coup on French socialism. President Mitterrand had been caught red-handed sounding resigned to the coup's success and the

party's long-standing union with the French Communists, which no longer seems the electoral advantage it was.

M Delors' bridgeheads are in place in Paris. His daughter, Martine Aubry, is a well-regarded cabinet minister in charge of employment. Francois Lamoureux, second in command of M Delors' private staff in Brussels and draughtsman of ambitious plans for European political union, has just become deputy head of Mme Cresson's staff. M Delors' chief of staff in Brussels, a fearsome French super-mandarin named Pascal Lamy, is tipped to become head of the French finance ministry's *Trésor*, the country's public spending watchdog.

Finance is M Delors' specialty. He would like to leave Brussels having set an un-

breakable timetable for economic and monetary union. German reluctance, however, may prevent this ambition being fulfilled. M Delors was finance minister in Paris in the early 1980s when President Mitterrand was determined to nationalise large chunks of the French economy. M Delors, obstinate and economically cautious, was not radical or co-operative enough for M Mitterrand's taste. Their relationship worsened when M Delors used the previously unregarded job of heading the EC's unelected commission to turn himself into a political superstar.

But President Mitterrand's closest advisers have been forced to conclude that M Delors may be their only hope of stopping M Rocard, M Mitterrand's pet hate, becoming the Socialists' presidential candidate. The advisers have conducted a whispering campaign over the past three weeks dubbed "Operation Delors" to swing the party mainstream behind M Delors and make it difficult for him to refuse any job which might be offered.

M Delors has made no public comment on these enticing possibilities but has given a couple of long interviews to show that his ambitions for a federal Europe have not been dented by the disintegration of the Soviet and Yugoslav federations. His response has been more sophisticated than that of M Mitterrand, who continues to insist that the EC should not expand to include Eastern Europe before achieving deeper political integration. M Delors has acknowledged the EC may double in size.

## Hammer blow for David

FROM PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

MICHELANGELO'S *David*, the statue often described as "the most beautiful man in the world", has been attacked in the Florence Accademia by a man, wielding a hammer, who was described by police as "mentally unstable".

The hammer blow knocked five small pieces of marble off the statue's left foot, but experts said repairs would be easy. Piero Cannata, aged 47, an unemployed former art student, said: "I did it because I am envious of Michelangelo, because that statue radiates evil fluids." He told police he had been inspired by the spirit of a 16th-century courtesan, Nani, portrayed in a painting by Paolo Veronese.

On Saturday morning Mr Cannata, among a crowd of visitors, suddenly climbed up on the base of the statue and struck a blow. He then threw down the hammer and lay down on the floor, where he was held by a woman guard.

The Accademia *David* is the original, produced by Michelangelo in 1501-3. It stood in the Piazza dei Signori until 1873, when a copy was substituted and the original was brought indoors.

## B&Q BUNK BED IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM B&Q QUALITY ASSURANCE DEPARTMENT

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B&Q Quality Assurance Department

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "صلى الله عليه وسلم"



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**Folds to fit your pocket.** Memory backup battery will last well into 1993.

**London? Lagos? Lisbon? Leipzig?** The IQ displays the time in your own 'home' city or any of 212 major cities worldwide.

**Accepts 32KB, 64KB & 128KB RAM cards** for additional memory. And more to come.

**Low battery warning.** (Rarely seen - batteries last up to 150 hours.)

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**Customise your own 'Start-Up' display** with your name, number and address.

**40 columns x 8 line liquid crystal display** gives impressive graphic capability.

**For quick and easy back-up,** memory contents can be transferred to an optional RAM card.

**Schedule entries** can be viewed in chronological order, backwards or forwards in time. H.G. Wells would have loved it.

**Seek/Search** facilitates direct word search in any mode.

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**With 'Business Card'** you can call up everything from company addresses to individual job titles. Or set up your own data bases.

**Memory check** indicates how much memory is in use.

**Talking about coffee,** the IQ-8200 weighs little more than an 8oz jar. (275g to be precise.)

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**Accented characters** for French, German and Spanish. Olé!

**'Secret' function** lets you store sensitive information, accessible only via the correct password. And don't you forget it.

**Port for thermal printer.**

**External battery connection.**

**IC cards** fit easily into your credit card holder.

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**Record the time and date** along with your entries using Time/Date.

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**Wide range of pre-programmed IC cards** covering all kinds of business, language and leisure applications. Plus cards you can self-program for your own special requirements.

**'Daily Alarm'** can drive you mad as often as seven times a day. Beep beep.

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# Mothers on a return ticket

How can women who want to go back to work boost their skills and confidence?

Heather Kirby reports

Before Clare Selerie, the editor of *Woman's Hour*, which changes today from an afternoon to a morning slot, returned to her job two weeks ago, the most taxing problem she had to deal with was whether it was all right to give six-month-old Gemma Lenthia. "I felt very daunted at the whole idea of coming back. I had deliberately cut myself off from the office because I was not involved in the decisions being made, and I did wonder if I would be able to gear up to that kind of speed again."

For most women returners who have been out of the workforce for longer than the eight-month maternity leave Ms Selerie took, or who have never been "economically active", lack of self-confidence is constantly given as one of the main stumbling blocks to taking up a new career. Another reason is the mistaken belief that they have no skills to offer. In the event, Ms Selerie was back into the swing of things within a day. "I have a team of ten producers bursting into this office with ideas all day, and I quickly learnt I had not lost my editing skills," she says.

However, two reports last week did nothing to boost the confidence of the average woman. The first, an analysis of unemployment figures conducted by *The Times*, said unemployment among women in Britain had started to grow faster than among men. The second, "Women, Training and Skills Shortage", a three-year study for the Policy Studies Institute carried out by Joan Payne, said that women's talents were being wasted. One in ten working women with A levels is doing an unskilled or semi-skilled job, and Mrs Payne criticised government training policies for not assisting women more. According to the Institute for Employment Research, the proportion of women in management and administration was 20.7 per cent in 1971, 26.4 per cent in 1987, and is predicted to rise to only 28.1 per cent by 1995. In spite of this gloomy prognosis, Joanna Foster, the chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission, recommends that women should keep taking the courses. "When the recession ends, it is employees with skills who will get the jobs," she says.

Last year *Woman's Hour* ran a series of road shows with the employment department called "Back to the Future", which consisted of pep talks and careers advice



Change of pace: Clare Selerie wondered if she could "gear up to that kind of speed again" after having Gemma, now aged six months

by women who had made it. "Women have wanted to go back to work for a long time," Ms Selerie says, "but society has not changed enough to take on board what they want. The overriding problems are child care and flexible hours."

Virtually every course for women returners, whether run by a training enterprise council (TEC), university or private training agency, deems it necessary to begin with a boost to women's self-esteem by pointing out that in bringing up a family and running a home, they have acquired highly marketable managerial tools such as budgeting, interpersonal relationship skills, and time management. Dr Eleanor Macdonald is a former training consultant who runs a one-day course, "Managing Myself" (£100 plus VAT), from her home in Croydon, Surrey. "It is very difficult, if you see yourself as a modest little wife, to get anything other than a modest little job," she says, "and husbands are not very encouraging."

The Women Returners' Network (WRN) is an educational charity which publishes an informative directory, available from libraries, of

1,400 accredited courses and a guide, "Country Choices", for women who live in rural areas. Few privately run courses are recommended because, the WRN says, it is so difficult to judge their quality.

There are thousands of courses on offer. Access is a full-time course, available nationally, for people who want to get a degree but who have no relevant A levels. These are not limited to women, although the one at Westminster College, Battersea, southwest London, with a ratio of nine women to three men, is probably typical. Only one of the mature students there wants to go into industry. The rest want to be either secondary or primary school teachers. A few have some savings, but most depend on a grant of about £3,000 a year, from their local authority, which had still not materialised after their first week.

Money from the European Social Fund pays 48 per cent of some courses geared for the long-term unemployed, and the local authority pays the rest. Helen Hutson, the head of continuing and creative studies at Westminster College, explains what "Widening Oppor-

tunities for Women", a 15-week course which costs from nothing to £140 depending on a woman's circumstances, offers: "Business communication and numeracy, basic computing, self-presentation and confidence-building skills, counselling and careers guidance. They will learn, for instance, how to deal with aggression and harassment at work."

When Judith Kricheski, studying another women returners' course at the Polytechnic of Central London, did her work experience, she practised what she had learnt. "I went to the Prudential and after two weeks decided I didn't want to be in personnel, I wanted to be in marketing instead. As a result of the course I discovered that if you go out and ask for something, you get it." Mrs Kricheski decided to do the course because, although she had applied for several jobs, she did not even get as far as an interview. A 45-year-old mother of three children aged from seven to 19, she was disappointed by the total lack of response, especially as she had a degree in hotel

management and a business management diploma, and spoke four languages. Now she is self-employed, doing freelance market consultancy work for restaurants and hotels, and is working with a TEC running five-day courses for women in Brent, north London.

Miss Hutson says the reason women returners are not moving up the corporate ladder is that the government left training largely in the hands of private industry, "and that is led by men. There is not just a glass ceiling, but an iron door." Ruth Michaels, the president of the WRN, is directing a two-year project in greater London to bring together employers, colleges and women to meet each other's needs.

"Our government is the worst in Europe," she says. "Part-time workers should not be treated as temporary chattels, but the UK is against bringing in legislation to protect them. It allows employers to exploit part-time workers, and 85 per cent of part-time workers are women."

© The Women Returners' Network, Eastern House 21-23 Eastern Road, London NW1 2ET (071-388 3111)

## To the screen from the heart

William Goldman's film career has beaten the odds for 30 years

Amid changing trends in the over-fickle film business, the first thing one notices about screenwriter William Goldman's career is its staying power. As Mr Goldman himself points out, the screenwriter is often the first to be sacked when a film gets into trouble. To have worked for almost 30 years on scripts that defy generic fashion is no mean achievement, gathering Oscars for *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and *All the President's Men* along the way.

Last night, the Writers' Guild honoured Mr Goldman at the Dorchester with a special award. Not only has he found a sustained foothold in the industry, but he has worked with those stars — Dustin Hoffman, Robert Redford, Paul Newman — whose participation ensures that a film gets made. There is a flip side, though, and Mr Goldman has chronicled that, too. His non-fiction book *Adventures in the Screen Trade* refers to his novel *Hype and Glory*, and makes it clear that the film world itself remains foul.

"Film is a business, just like any other," Mr Goldman, a Chicagoan now based in New York, says late one afternoon in a Knightsbridge hotel lounge, minutes from his London flat. "People think it's glamorous. If you've been on a soundstage, you know it isn't; it's technical. And as you know," he adds, "there is so much horse shit."

Mr Goldman's prior response to this phenomenon was to feed it directly into his books, but now that he is 60, he wants to avoid it. "I've had enough nightmare experiences. Screenwriters have essentially no power in the crunch. That's not a complaint; that's just how it is."

Recently, Mr Goldman has found a pleasing berth at Castle Rock, the production company behind *Misery*, his 1990 success, which turned Kathy Bates, the brilliant New York theatre actress, into an Oscar-winning star, and his upcoming *Year of the Comet*, a *Charade*-style caper directed

by Peter Yates. The films are script-oriented and neither cost more than \$20 million (about £11.5 million) to make.

The essential unpredictability of the industry, Mr Goldman believes, is what most bedevils Hollywood. "They are looking for past magic," he says of the studios. This summer's hits "were as big as ever, but they were seven movies where nobody came". In such an atmosphere, how does one chart a career? "I think it's a craft," says the writer, who read English at Oberlin College and then at Columbia University. "There are no secrets." But, he says, one might as well write from the heart, "because by the time you've gone over and over it, if you don't believe it, it's hateful."

Following the American release next April of *Year of the Comet*, he hopes to begin production on a fully-fledged film musical directed by Rob Reiner, his partner on *The Princess Bride* and *Misery*, and scored by Stephen Sondheim. "This is Steve's first, through-composed, real movie musical," Mr Goldman says of the Broadway veteran who won the Best Song Oscar this year for his contribution to *Dick Tracy*. "What he does best is collaborate. Often he will say, 'Write me lyrics. What kind of song do you see?' Writing a dummy lyric for Stephen Sondheim is very spooky."

Does he ever think of shifting his attentions to the stage? "When you write a play, you're still bleeding when the critics come after you. On a book or a movie, you've got nine months or a year for the scars to heal." The influence of the critic differs, too. "You don't need *The New York Times* for a movie."

Besides, as he readily admits, the cinema continues to exert its masochistic pull. "In a lot of places, people are nutty about movies, thank God. Movies are strange," he muses, "because they are a fad that has lasted 100 years."

MATT WOLF



Script power: Kathy Bates and James Caan in *Misery*

### Another victim of the Retirement Gap?

## David will be in a company pension for half his working life. Unfortunately that could halve his pension.

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## Exam nerves on breasts

Women may have picked up the wrong message on self-examination

THE idea that breast cancer can be picked up early by careful self-examination of the breasts has comforted women for years.

So the conflicting messages which have emerged over the past few days have been anything but reassuring. On the one hand women have been told that checking their own breasts is not effective, and could lead to many false alarms, and on the other that they should practise "breast awareness". This advice comes from the same source: Sir Donald Acheson, the outgoing chief medical officer of the health department.

But a much more important issue has become clouded as a result: death rates from this disease are on the increase in Britain, even though effective (and not particularly new) drug therapies have proved their worth in international research.

Breast cancer kills more women under 65 than any other single cause, and the UK leads the world in breast cancer mortality rates. When quoting the statistics became too depressing, journalists and health educators often mentioned breast self-examination. The subtext was clear: this disease is awful, but there is something you can do about it.

The fact that few women actually did examine themselves — never more than 20 per cent in the UK, according to surveys — seemed irrelevant. Breast self-examination was there if we wanted it.

In fact, the health department's advisory committee on breast screening said in 1989 that self-examination had not led to a reduction in the death rate for women. But this was a negative message which no one was too keen to emphasise. Sir Donald had not intended to be controversial when he said breast self-examination was ineffective. He was merely stating what he regarded as established medi-

cal fact in response to a journalist's question, and in an attempt to encourage more women to take up the national breast screening programme, in operation since 1988. Research is about to begin at London's Royal Marsden Hospital to see if gestodene, a hormone used in some brands of the contraceptive pill, is effective in preventing and treating breast cancer. The new trials are likely to involve volunteers with advanced breast cancer.

The results will not be known for several years. In the meantime Dr Joan Anstoker, an adviser to the NHS breast screening programme, says women should be aware of the appearance and feel of normal breast tissue as part of their regular routine.

Most breast surgeons accept that women can carry a vast load of unnecessary anxiety after finding a lump. But Robert Mansel, professor of surgery at Manchester University, is anxious that this is not used as a reason to abandon breast self-examination.

Professor Mansel says: "I am reluctant to tell women not to practise self-examination. How can we tell them on the one hand that we need to find the lump when it is as small as possible, and on the other that they should not look for it?"

Ian Fentiman, the deputy director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's clinical oncology unit, says: "Those of us who treat breast cancer know that the majority of women who come in with lumps have discovered them themselves. All the patients I have seen since this story came out have picked up the message that they should stop examining themselves, and that is very unfortunate."

"I feel this new advice is unproductive and meddlesome."

ANN KENT

One recent survey of 1,000 fourth and fifth form girls in London found nearly a third were dieting; another that a third of nine-year-olds wanted to lose weight.



This Friday The TES reports on the changing face of anorexia.

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FILM FESTIVAL: VENICE

# Steppes in a popular direction

Judges at the world's oldest film festival played surprisingly safe, says David Robinson

Venice's festival jury this year was an odd bunch. The president, Gian-Luigi Rondi, is the septuagenarian Machiavelli of Italian film politics and former Venice director, who ferociously opposed the appointment of the current director, Guglielmo Biraghi, and has subsequently been unremitting in his criticism. He was, moreover, to be overheard on occasion loudly criticising his fellow jurors — who included James Belushi (far brighter than his comedy roles in pictures suggest), the ebullient Spanish minister of culture Pilar Miro, the British director John Boorman, and Oja Kodar, collaborator and companion of the late Orson Welles.

In the outcome, this heterogeneous group played it safe. Their grand prize-winner, Nikita Michalkov's *Urga* — French-financed and shot in Soviet Mongolia — is big, beautiful and at heart very traditional.

Life in the vast steppe-lands is shown in the magnificence of *National Geographic* images. The hero, a young Mongolian sheep-breeder, befriends a characterful Russian lorry-driver broken down in the desert, and goes to the city to seek better family-planning aids. The ecological message is hammered home: a coda shows a future in which factories pollute the virgin steppes. The scenery is seductive, but Michalkov's claim that he worked with a five-page script is all too credible.

Myth and legend flourished in Venice this year. The opening film, out of competition, was Luc Besson's *Atlantis*, "the dream of a man who has become a fish". The film turned out to be less a tribute to the Atlantis myth than to the underwater documentaries of Jacques Cousteau — 78 minutes of submarine scenery, without words or human presences. The effort cost \$18 million (£10.4 million) and will need to repeat the big box-office success of Besson's previous marine effort, *The Big Blue*.

The *Fisher King*, despite its title, is set on dry land. The imagery refers to the old grail legend, and the film sees the moral dilemmas of contemporary New York in terms of Arthurian combat. This is the first film which Terry Gilliam, a central figure in the Monty Python team, has directed from a subject he has not himself originated. The script, by Richard Le Gravenese, relates the fall and redemption of a cynical Manhattan DJ played by Jeff Bridges. A breakdown drives him to existence on the streets, where he meets a visionary fellow-vagrant (Robin Williams). Together they find their grail.

Like Gilliam's *Brazil* and *Munchausen*, *The Fisher King* combines breath-taking invention and

energy with an ebullience that often impairs judgment and discipline (the film's 137 minutes could be profitably pruned). But fantasies such as the Grand Central Station commuters breaking into a grand waltz wholly justified the film's silver prize.

Zhang Yimou's *Red Lanterns* had been a popular tip for the main prize. The director of *Red Sorghum* and *Judou* began his career as a cameraman, and every shot confirms the debt he acknowledges to classical Chinese painting. Set in the Twenties — an era of China's history that seems as remote as the Middle Ages — the film tells the story of a young woman who leaves her studies to become the fourth wife of an old feudal chieftain. The lanterns of the title are placed each night before the house of the wife chosen for that day's favours.

The woman finds herself fatally enmeshed in the intrigues and power-play of the chieftain's mansion. The film is a gripping psychodrama, even without the possibility of interpreting the relationships of the wives as an allegory of the social politics of Tiananmen Square.

The British were in surprising evidence in Venice considering the dire state, approaching extinction, of the domestic film industry. Peter Greenaway's *Prospero's Books* attracted a good deal of press attention but no official prize. Nor, surprisingly, was there any award for Istvan Szabo's stylish *Meeting Venus*. Szabo had discovered an authentically European theme: the problems and fruits of international collaboration, seen through the serio-comic adventures of a Hungarian director attempting to conduct a polyglot cast in *Tannhäuser* at the Paris Opéra. The comedy acquires its wry quality from the first-hand experiences which Szabo has adapted to his scenario.

Two other British productions shown out of competition are the first fruit of an ingenious enterprise initiated by John Archer of BBC Scotland. Archer approached a number of world-class directors, offering them minuscule budgets but com-



Britain's only award-winner: Tilda Swinton as Isabella in Derek Jarman's film of *Edward II*

plete freedom to produce films that should have some autobiographical content.

Nagisa Oshima's *Kyoto* — My Mother's Place is a gentle documentary, rediscovering a love-hate for his native city and all its associations. Showings of John Boorman's *I Dreamt I Woke Up* were postponed for technical reasons, and I left Venice without seeing the film. The synopsis states, however, that it is a description of

the director's life and work as director and treeplanter, looking back from his death, with John Hurt, playing Boorman's alter-ego, in his coffin. In the end, the only prize for Britain went to Tilda Swinton, voted best actress for Derek Jarman's *Edward II*.

Of the other prize-winners, *A Divina Comédia*, by the 83-year-old Portuguese writer-director Manoel de Oliveira, stunned its audiences with boredom. A "historical reflection" unconnected with Dante, it takes place in a madhouse, where patients believe themselves to be characters from the Bible or world literature and orate accordingly. Jean-Luc Godard's *Allemagne Neuf Zéro* was a collage of music, documentary images and a rudimentary narrative about a German with a past, all echoing pervading French fears of the new, united Germany.

The most unjustly denigrated film of the festival was Jerzy Skolimowski's *Thirtieth Door Key*. The title, certainly, is senseless — it is a phrase made up merely to echo the sound of *Ferdynand*, the original title of the novel by Witold Gombrowicz

which Skolimowski has adapted.

The undertaking is either foolhardy or courageous. The novel lies somewhere between Kafka and more recent modes of absurdism — but absurdism can often seem mere silliness when translated to the screen. The 30-year-old hero finds himself suddenly transported back to school days, to the idiot anarchy of boyhood and the repressive paternalism of the grown-up world. The allegory of Polish society on the eve of the second world war is not inapposite for the prevailing infatuation of the current *fin de siècle*.

Skolimowski has fallen into the trap of the European film. He has some good actors — Jan Glin, Robert Stephens, Crispin Glover and Tadeusz Lomnicki, the hero of *Wajda's* first, classic films — but they are all reduced, either by dubbing or by unsympathetic direction, to the queer European which characterises Continental English-language films. The film will not go far, but Skolimowski deserves more for trying than the abuse the film suffered generally in Venice.

## VENICE FILM FESTIVAL: WINNERS

- GOLDEN LION: *Urga* (France/USSR; director Nikita Michalkov)
- SPECIAL PRIZE OF THE JURY: *A Divina Comédia* (France/Portugal; director Manoel de Oliveira)
- SILVER LIONS: *Red Lanterns* (China; director Zhang Yimou)
- BEST ACTOR: River Phoenix (*My Own Private Idaho*, USA)
- BEST ACTRESS: Tilda Swinton (*Edward II*, Britain)
- OSELE D'ORO: *Mississippi Masala* (USA; director Mira Nair)
- CRY OF STONE (France/Germany/Canada/Italy/Argentina; director Werner Herzog)
- ALLEMAGNE NEUF ZÉRO (France; Jean-Luc Godard)
- GOLD MEDAL: *Allemagne Neuf Zéro* (France; Jean-Luc Godard)

## A nightmare not quite nasty enough

Lynne Truss reviews the TV play *Filipina Dreamgirls*, a glossily packaged tale of Welsh wife-hunters abroad

THERE were times, during last night's play *Filipina Dreamgirls* (BBC 1), when one's sense of Far Eastern geography got deliberately mixed up. Those arty shots of jumbo jets flying against red-and-orange sunset skies; those calendar images of young, doll-like oriental women dipping their bikinis in the South China Sea and smiling complacently at the camera, while sickly middle-of-the-road music swelled the soundtrack.

Personally, I could have done with fewer of these glossy commercial-break interludes: the script (by Andrew Davies) would certainly have seemed tighter without them. Still, sexual consumerism was the theme, and these images are its natural packaging. Five blokes from Cardiff had flown out to Manila, each of them shopping for a beautiful bride

(and spoiled for choice). It went without saying, of course, that these were the sort of blokes who encounter stumbling-blocks when bride-shopping at home. "Arseholes" was how the blunt Anglo-Saxon proprietor of the Filipina-Cymric Contact Club generously summed them up.

HOW likeable were they supposed to be, these "arseholes"? I was never sure. Were we supposed to be revolted by the idea of lovely young women willingly conferring themselves on half-wits: or was the play really only an affectionate portrait of innocents abroad? Again, I think there was a problem of tone;

director Les Blair took some strangely soft options. Take Carwyn, played by Geoffrey Hutchings. He is a Grade One Welsh Miser, right? At home he is a carpenter (fitted kitchens, mostly), which is apt enough since he appears to be as stiff and heat-resistant as a laminated work-surface.

What sort of husband will Carwyn make? Is he a "good man", as his dreamgirl suggests? Somehow the questions failed to raise themselves. We didn't even feel pity that his chosen wife, Marietta (Grace Amibangsa), was marrying this frightful Celtish Eeyore simply to escape the bullying of a pimp. Carwyn was doing his best, after all. At the end,

one felt only rather lame greeting-card sentiments: "Wishing you every happiness, Carwyn. It couldn't have happened to a nicer bloke."

NONE of this was the fault of the acting, which was always enjoyable. Bill Maynard (who got most of the best lines) was the huge-bellied Contact Club proprietor George Trout — a sort of Sidney Greenstreet role, which he played with comic panache. "I'm sure you'll all look better when I've had a drink" was the nicest thing he could say to his clients. Business was clearly flourishing, with a weekly turn-around of satisfied customers, yet Trout would

drunkenly lament the horror of the transaction — crying crocodile tears over the fate of "the lovely girls", and putting the blame for the sordid business on the "ugly-looking tossers" who answered his ads. Maynard handled this hypocrisy so cleverly that you almost didn't notice it.

But the general impression of *Filipina Dreamgirls* was of an opportunity somehow missed. Andrew Davies is not afraid of creating monsters (remember *A Very Peculiar Practice*). In this production, however, one felt rather cheated — diddled out of the piece's potential awfulness. The loathsome comic nerd Preston (Lee Cornes) didn't really count, because it was too easy to imagine him played by Charles Hawkey or Kenneth Williams. Only the intimidatory behaviour of the pimp Ray (Max Phipps) seemed to stand intact as a beacon of true nastiness. "Don't tell me, I know," he kept saying. Don't you just hate people who say that?

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OPERA

## Delving into a sexist corner

Theatre director Phyllida Lloyd talks to Hilary Finch about staging a comic rarity from 19th century French opera

When Adrian Noble gave a copy of Thomas Shadwell's little-known play *The Yr-uoos* to Phyllida Lloyd for her directing debut last spring with the Royal Shakespeare Company, she was mildly disconcerted. But when Nicholas Payne, general administrator of Opera North, handed her the score of Chabrier's *L'Etoile* for her directing debut in opera, she was totally taken aback. "It was everything I hadn't been fantasising about for my launch into this highly esoteric art form. Chabrier? Chabrier who?"

Lloyd was not alone in her ignorance of the syphilitic family man in whose arms Manet died, the composer who adored Wagner so much that he shut himself in his room weeping after his first *Tristan*, yet insisted on wearing his cotton nightcap to the opera in Bayreuth. Something of a rarity here and in Europe, his early comic opera, *L'Etoile*, with which Opera North opens its season tomorrow, had Debussy and Poulenc splitting their sides.

The story of Siroco, Aloes and Tapioca, and of the lucky star which links the fate of the outrageous King Ous and the cheeky pedlar Lazuli, is an *opera bouffe*. On the face of it, this seemed ideal raw material for a director who has already revelled in the mischief and social folly of Shadwell and Sheridan, to say nothing of Shakespeare's and Orton's comedies of errors.

The problems, though, had only just begun. The need to make believable the flimsiest of plots, and to ensure that the show would not turn into a string of gags with a few songs in between made Lloyd realise what she was up against. "When I looked at the libretto I realised I could avoid the whole debate about 'conceptual opera'. I'd have enough on my plate simply trying to make it all coherent, without worrying about whether I was going to set it inside the heroine's brain."

Chabrier, though, was there to help. "The character of the man is so seductive. I feel his spirit very strongly in the rehearsal room. And it's the same spirit I've felt when working on Joe Orton: a wicked, impish humour, real ads. Maynard handled this hypocrisy so cleverly that you almost didn't notice it."

Lloyd found another ally in Jeremy Sams, whose skills in

translation and musical transformation meant that an able, at times ruthless, surgeon was at hand to doctor the dialogue and libretto. "He insisted that we sang the entire opera together, round the piano. It can, after all, be quite hard to sing a top A and make a joke at the same time."

Lloyd, once again, will be working with her regular designer Anthony Ward. "We've eschewed the oriental under- tones of the opera entirely. We really didn't want it to be full of Eastern promise. We've gone — for a much broader fairytale world. This will be a highly illustrative, Alice-in-Wonderland kingdom."

Those familiar with the work of the first female associate director at Manchester's Royal Exchange, one who has already had considerable fun casting women in male roles, will be on the lookout for what Lloyd will make of Chabrier's own satire on 19th century bourgeois sexual repression and pretension. "I seem to have plunged into the most sexist corner of opera there is. The whole piece seems to have been constructed as a male

Lloyd: making her operatic debut with *L'Etoile*

heterosexual fantasy. I find it extremely hard to reconcile the fact that the central travesty role, Lazuli (sung by a mezzo-soprano), is a wide-boy who wins his princess through being brazenly macho, petted and adored by eight dancing girls, yet whose music is so utterly romantic and female. "I imagine the allure was that a woman dressed as a man never really loses her female sexuality, and that there's something erotic about that contradiction. It's a dichotomy which a woman could never have created."

● *L'Etoile* opens at Leeds Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 459351), tomorrow.

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# Parliament their prison

Peter Riddell laments the social isolation of the modern politician

The wife of a frontbencher said to me last week: "I never really trust a politician who doesn't have other interests", quickly adding that she did not mean her husband. She had a point: politicians are different from the rest of us. They pursue in an obsessive way what only occasionally diverts most of the population, and often to the extent of excluding other interests.

No wonder politicians seem remote. One of my favourite sights at the autumn party conferences is the juxtaposition of politicians and holidaymakers. In Blackpool, across the street from the maximum-security fortress of the Imperial Hotel, families sit in the front rooms of hotels enjoying high tea. The holidaymakers regard the conference participants as alien creatures, visitors from Mars or, even worse, London. The only points of contact are familiar faces from television. Interviewers like Sir Robin Day or David Dimbleby are treated with at least as much awe as any leading politician. Otherwise, the proceedings are largely ignored.

MPs themselves seldom watch television, and even less during a general election, though it is the main way in which voters follow a campaign. Even last week, during a parliamentary recess, I was surprised by the number of politicians who claim not to have seen *Thatcher: The Final Days*. That programme, in its muddled way, will have more influence on how most voters think of last November's events than all the books produced.

Political life can itself be narrowing. As Paddy Ashdown confessed last week: "The longer I remain in politics, the more boring I become as a person." Few people drift into parliament. Many MPs admit they developed a fierce ambition in their teens to enter the Commons. Several of the 1960s Cambridge set now so prominent in the cabinet spent most of their university years preoccupied with politics. There is little time for much else if you are going to get on to the parliamentary ladder. The pre-Commons jobs of many current frontbenchers were just a means of earning a living, secondary to becoming a candidate. Few have had experience of working in large organisations or of being responsible for implementing decisions. In the Commons, MPs have a distorted view of their constituents' lives and concerns, since in the main they hear only about their difficulties with housing and social security.

Once a politician is in office, the everyday world becomes more distant. The ministerial car provides a cocoon from the deterioration of London's public transport. It was not always so. A hundred years ago Lord Salisbury used to

walk out into Whitehall in the evening to hail a cab to take him to King's Cross and the train home to Hatfield House in Hertfordshire. Conveniently, but not coincidentally, the local station was, and is, by the entrance to Hatfield House; before becoming prime minister, Salisbury had been a director of the LNER company. Only a few years ago Lord Home of the Hirsel could be seen regularly travelling by the Circle line, wearing a Homburg hat like the one he had when accompanying Neville Chamberlain to Munich in 1938. Travelling by public transport does not guarantee understanding, but not doing so cannot help. There were no doubt excellent security reasons why Margaret Thatcher never travelled by train, but British Rail's passengers might have been better off if she had.

Given the pressures on their lives it is surprising how many, rather than how few, politicians have outside interests, apart from drink and sex. I have always had a soft spot for those who have found time to write books other than political memoirs. Including in the lonely masochism of authorship as well as looking after a constituency, let alone doing a frontbench job, singles out any MP. Douglas Hurd and Roy Hattersley are more interesting because they are successful authors.

By this yardstick, John Major might seem a classic example of the narrow professional politician. He devoted himself with time-consuming assiduity to cultivating his parliamentary colleagues and the media. That is why he is now prime minister. But he has other interests. His love of cricket is genuine and longstanding. No one could be accused of being a fairweather fan who has loyally supported Surrey over the past, largely barren, 30 years.

The ability to relax, and be seen to be relaxing, is a political virtue that Mrs Thatcher never appreciated. Her relentlessness accounted for much of her success, but not even her friends would describe her as easy-going company. Her lack of other interests helps to explain both why she was regarded as out of touch when she was prime minister and why she appears so lonely a figure now as a retiring world statesman.

By contrast, a large part of Mr Major's popular appeal, so infuriating to the other parties, is that he is widely viewed as the epitome of the ordinary man, sharing and understanding the public's concerns and interests, the man next to you on the terraces or the commuter train. It is an apt paradox of the times that so committed a politician should be successful because he is seen as being unlike the traditional image of a remote politician.

He had sounded so desperate, the Croatian man. If he had been your smooth-talking diplomat, practised in the machinery of the British political establishment, a shrug of the shoulders would have come more easily. But he was a doctor who wrote poetry and had been working in a London hospital, who now felt he had to do this because, he said, "there is nobody else". He had no experience of diplomacy and didn't know how to begin. I had suggested we meet at a pub, and he had brought with him a sheaf of ghastly photographs.

I had tried to steer the conversation towards the very limited things I thought he could achieve here, given that almost nobody in Britain is interested. But as often as he struggled to focus on this practical point he would become overwhelmed by a feeling of injustice and of urgency. Again and again he tried to explain the justice of his countrymen's case, and the horrors they faced. How could I tell him that our Foreign Office knows very well the justice of the Croatian case, knows very well what is happening, and may happen, and is not planning to do anything about it?

It is disarming to be confronted by someone who believes that if only they can convince you they are right then their cause is won. It makes you feel corrupt, too, to shake hands at the end of it: one party to the handshake buried in anxiety, the other

Roger Boyes on the struggle for moral ascendancy in the war between Serb and Croat

## Atrocities by numbers

During a lull in the fighting in Osijek the other day, a young Croat offered me some dirty pictures: graphic photographs of mutilated men, feet chopped off, eyeballs gouged out, and a patch of blood in place of genitals. The pictures were bought up by a German journalist. No doubt his magazine will soon enjoy a boost in circulation.

In little more than a century, war in the Balkans has come full circle. The atrocities of the Bashi-Bazouks, the fearsome irregulars who fought for the Turks, shocked British opinion in 1876 and secured Gladstone's support for Bulgarian independence. No newspaper photographs or television cameras in those days, of course, but strong emotive reporting. Januarius MacGahan of *The London Daily News* described the "little baby hands stretched out as if for help, babies that had died wondering at the bright gleam of sabres". The Croats are trying to drum up a similar European response today, comparing Serb

guerrillas with the Bashi-Bazouks. Massacres and atrocities have occurred throughout recorded history; rare has been the battle fought to rules, as in a sports stadium, subject to the arbitration of a referee's whistle. The European Community mission to Yugoslavia is an attempt to impose such a structure on the Serbs and Croats, but so far this has been a hopelessly misguided effort.

Civil wars such as the present struggle between the Serbs and Croats have a barbarity of their own. The Spanish civil war was particularly gruesome. The international attitude to the Spanish war was that it was a battle of ideas, of communism against fascism, and that had a marked effect on the treatment of atrocities. Arthur Koestler, for example, wrote the first part of his *Spanish Testament* in Paris, not in

Spain, under the close supervision of the German communist Willi Muenzenberg, who could tell Koestler: "Tell the world how they run over their prisoners with tanks, how they pour petrol over them and burn them alive. Make the world gasp with horror."

The present Yugoslav war is not over ideas but territory. It is thus difficult to see how the rival groups can mobilise world opinion in the same way; there will be no Guernica. Nobody believes that Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, is fighting for communism or any other ideology, just power on his terms. And the Croatian leader Franjo Tudjman, though fighting for independence, is hardly in the heroic mould.

Remembered atrocities have always fed new conflict. Nowadays the Serbs justify their attacks on Croatian villages by

reference to the Croat Ustashe, the fascists who murdered with such abandon during the second world war. Every Serb schoolchild "knows" that Ustashe strapped knives to their arms so that they could carry on slaughtering even when they were so exhausted that they could not hold the handles.

There was a row in Yugoslavia last week about a West German television report which included film of the bodies of pensioners murdered in a village outside Osijek being unloaded from a truck. Another Serb massacre, announced the television journalist, and Germany edged closer to the Croat cause. But Serbs in Belgrade said they recognised some victims and claimed they were members of a Serb community butchered by the Croats.

That is the nub of the propaganda war in Yugoslavia. The

protagonists are intent, most of all, on establishing that they are on the right side of the civilised frontier: that they are part of "Europe". Croats say that they and the Slovenes are heirs to Habsburg culture and a democratic tradition, while the Serbs across the Danube are imbued with the barbarism of the Ottomans. The Serbs, proud of their fight against the Nazis, regard modern Croats as the continuation of a fascist line. The dead bodies are significant only in so far as they contribute to this argument.

When the television cameras and photographers have gone, interest wanes in the dead. Last week, at a funeral in western Slavonia, a priest and an undertaker could be seen in a cemetery chapel deep in hushed discussion: they could not agree on whose name should be carved on a wooden cross. The hospital had stopped labelling corpses. The mourners, meanwhile, waited patiently outside.

## Four legs good, two legs bad

Bernard Levin accuses animal-rights activists of hatred of humankind



human beings may be tolerated from those where they cannot.

The criminal law is a clumsy instrument, but without it no civilisation can long endure. Answer me one question, you Animal Liberation Fronters: if a criminal picked the lock of your car and drove it away, never to be seen again by you, would you cease to feel outrage if you were told that the thief was an ardent member of the Volume Cars Rally Drivers Association?

You cannot pick and choose your crimes, you Fronters, even if the stench of self-righteousness that oozes from you makes passers-by gag two hundred yards upwind. For there is now to be considered the other significant comment from one of the gang. This one said: "We get a buzz of satisfaction because we know what we are doing is right."

I don't mind if I offend criminals, but what I am about to say may offend some among the law-abiding, so I shall apologise in advance. I do assure you, Fronters, that in Nazi Germany men — a substantial number of them, not mad and most of them not even extraordinary — pushed human beings into gas chambers and got a buzz of satisfaction because they knew what they were doing was right.

Why do you recoil from so extravagant a comparison? After all, it cannot be long now until a truck-driver is killed by one of the "incendiary devices" you have boasted about putting in vans carrying meat products. You recoil, or more likely pretend to, because most of you would not take part in gassing innocent millions of men, women and children. But you see, the Nazi murderers were every bit as sincere as you are; their "buzz of satisfaction" came from exactly the same source as yours — "we know what we are doing is right". But they were wrong.

One of the ringleaders of this

animal gang went a trifle too far, and is spending 10 years in prison: it will be interesting to know, when he comes out, whether he has learnt wisdom — wisdom, that is, in its most precious and powerful form, which is to distrust all human actions are uncertain. And the more closely the certainty corresponds to a long-held belief, the more suspect it must be.

It is ironic that vegetarians in societies like ours, having long been considered — rightly, too — the gentlest and most harmless members of the tribe, now number in their ranks the most vicious, crazed and criminal. The old image (exaggerated, or course) was composed of sandals, tweeds and an untidy beard; the new image (not at all exaggerated) is of a Molotov cocktail and a screaming hatred of human beings.

No amateur dinner-table psychiatrist I, but no one can look at the arguments and actions of such organisations without seeing that they are based on a misanthropy so profound that it can hardly be classified as sane. For just as the Fronters never concern themselves with the real animals they profess to protect, they never tune their human-bait song to a condemnation of the really evil; when did you ever hear of an Animal Liberation Front scatter the white powder of the backstreet drug-dealer, or shopping the confidence-tricksters who ruin the old and enfeebled; or turning their attention to child abuse and the injustice caused by the zealots (rather like the Fronters, come to think of it)?

"The more I see of men, the more I admire dogs," the attribution has been disputed for centuries, but nobody so far has thought it other than an acid jest. It is yet another comment on our time that now are there people who say it without irony, and live by it, too.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

There are bad things in the world, such as what goes into sausages, that you've never cared to look into. You know that if you did you might feel you had to take the matter up, so you shut your eyes. Stock-broking and the financing of the Conservative party are further examples. And for me, until Tuesday, so was Yugoslavia. The more people said, "You really do need to know what's happening there," the more I thought, "Oh no I don't", and so it went on.

Then, last week, someone said: "A friend of mine, the Croatian representative in London, wants to talk to you. Can I bring him along?" How can one refuse?

There are good things in the world, such as Australia, that you've never felt interested in trying. You know perfectly well you'd like it if you did, but you get a mental block about doing anything. Kingsley Amis, skiing and keeping tropical fish are further examples, and until Saturday so was the last night of the Proms. The more people said, "You've got to try it!" the more I thought, "Oh no I haven't", and so it went on.

He had sounded so desperate, the Croatian man. If he had been your smooth-talking diplomat, practised in the machinery of the British political establishment, a shrug of the shoulders would have come more easily. But he was a doctor who wrote poetry and had been working in a London hospital, who now felt he had to do this because, he said, "there is nobody else". He had no experience of diplomacy and didn't know how to begin. I had suggested we meet at a pub, and he had brought with him a sheaf of ghastly photographs.

I had tried to steer the conversation towards the very limited things I thought he could achieve here, given that almost nobody in Britain is interested. But as often as he struggled to focus on this practical point he would become overwhelmed by a feeling of injustice and of urgency. Again and again he tried to explain the justice of his countrymen's case, and the horrors they faced. How could I tell him that our Foreign Office knows very well the justice of the Croatian case, knows very well what is happening, and may happen, and is not planning to do anything about it?

It is disarming to be confronted by someone who believes that if only they can convince you they are right then their cause is won. It makes you feel corrupt, too, to shake hands at the end of it: one party to the handshake buried in anxiety, the other

wondering whether the next train to Bournemouth will make closing time at the hotel bar. The Proms, however, were magnificent. We English (let's be honest: it's all about England, really, isn't it?) are quite nationalistic, but so relaxed in our nationalism that its expression becomes merry rather than intense. Someone has brought an inflated parrot floating on a string, and this bobbed up and down (presumably with its owner's arm-beat) during the more majestic musical passages. To William Blake's question, during the final "And did those feet in ancient time, Walk upon England's mountains green?" the parrot inclined a little to one side, indicating scepticism.

I was becoming hungry. A table had been booked at a restaurant called Le Caprice. Soon this cheerful hall — all optimism, all humour, all light, all colour — would release its patriotic revellers into the safe English night. The conductor made a pleasant little closing speech. He especially thanked the voluntary workers of the St John Ambulance Brigade ... and I thought about the massacres in Croatia.

No doubt the cause was a sudden current of air, but the parrot swung round and looked straight at me.

A collection of Matthew Parris's columns and political sketches, *So Far So Good*, is published this week by Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

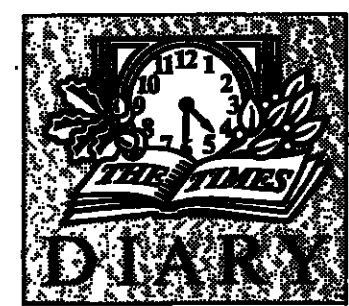
## Brussels brotherhood

TORY and Labour MPs who forged a short-lived political truce to fight shoulder to shoulder for Britain's entry into the European Community will be reunited at a dinner next month to mark the twentieth anniversary of the parliamentary vote. About 250 survivors of the 356 who voted in favour on October 28, 1971, including 69 Labour rebels led by Roy Jenkins, now Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, have been invited. The dinner is being organised by another former member of the SDP Gang of Four, Bill Rodgers, who was sacked from the front bench by Harold Wilson for acting as whip to the Labour rebels.

But Mrs Thatcher, who was education secretary at the time, is thought to be unlikely to accept her invitation. Edward Heath, in 1971 not only prime minister but prime mover in the approach to Europe, will address the dinner. David Owen may send his apologies on learning that Jenkins will be speaking, and a Labour rebel who is also unlikely to join the gathering at St Ermin's Hotel, Westminster, is Roy Hattersley, who defied the whip to vote in favour at the end of a six-day debate. Neil Kinnock voted against.

Rodgers says: "It was a historic vote on an unforgettable night of high drama. I find it hard to believe that 20 years on it is still such a controversial issue. It seems only right we should recall the event which was one of the most important in parliamentary post-war history."

Rodgers has two other reasons for not forgetting the vote. Not only was it his birthday but he also won the sweepstake among MPs for predicting the 112 majority.



As speculation increases about a November election at least one local authority is unconvinced. Letters have just gone out from the chief executive's office of Suffolk Coastal district council advising people to submit their names to the electoral register in time for an election, "which it is likely will be held after February 16. Perhaps the chief executive has talking to the local Tory MP, John Gummer, who may know something the rest of us don't."

### Shock of the new

THE ART world will not be alone in enjoying a frisson of novelty when paintings from the royal collection go on show at the National Gallery's Sainsbury wing next month for the first time. The Queen will be equally fresh to some of the works selected to replace the paintings on the denuded walls of the royal apartments; she has never seen them before.

A hundred paintings from Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, St James's Palace and Kensington Palace are going on show in the first large-scale exhibition of works from the royal collection for almost 50 years. Christopher Lloyd, surveyor of the Queen's pictures, says: "We cannot have any blank walls in the royal apartments. Some we have put in their

place have either drifted from the memory or not been seen by the Queen. There are 7,000 works." The Queen helped Lloyd devise the exhibition list, which includes works by Van Dyck and Rembrandt. But lesser works, such as Landseer's *Isaac Van Amburgh and his animals*, of 1839, will be of particular interest: in the background is a large lion similar to the Landseer guardians of the foot of Nelson's column. One of the most amusing exhibits is *The Necessary Woman*, by John Riley (1686), a portrait of a royal privy cleaner, immortalised holding the tool of her trade, a lavatory brush.

### Dredging up Drake

SIR Francis Drake may not be turning in his watery grave, a few miles off the Panama coast, for much longer. The Panamanian government has given permission for an expedition to move the scourge of the Spanish Armada

400th anniversary of Drake's death on January 28, 1596.

The Royal Navy, keen to see the return of one of its most famous mariners, is considering putting a frigate on duty in the region at Turner's disposal. "I had a meeting with the ambassador last week and his government is keen for the mission to go ahead," says Turner, 35, who has been to Panama three times to try to pinpoint the spot where Drake now rests 100ft from the shore.

Drake died of dysentery or yellow fever and was buried by his crew in a lead-lined coffin, which should be hermetically sealed. Turner, who has been offered help from salvage companies in the United States and the Isle of Man, says: "I would like the navy to bring the coffin back. Drake would like that."

### Bucking up Baker

SO WHY was John Major's lunch with Kenneth Baker, to discuss the riots and the election, at Dorneywood, the home secretary's 45-room grace-and-favour country home, rather than at Chequers? By tradition such lunches are held at the prime minister's official residence. Officials insist there was nothing unusual in the gathering. "The prime minister is always being invited to lunch," says Downing Street.

But Major's decision to go to Dorneywood, set in 214 acres of Buckinghamshire countryside, has surprised many political observers. Robert Shepherd, whose book on the Tory leadership crisis, *The Power Brokers*, came out in earlier this year, says: "I cannot recall a precedent. Ministers go to Chequers, not the other way round. I think this is a deliberate effort by Major to try to bolster the position of his home secretary in a period when Baker has had great political difficulties."

هكذا من الاصل





## THE KINNOCK FACTOR

With the turning polls, so too has turned the mood of the Labour party. Two weeks before its annual conference, confidence, sky high in the summer, is at a low ebb. That must affect Neil Kinnock. Even his own party sees him as a vote-loser. According to yesterday's *Harris/Observer* poll, 38 per cent of voters say he puts them off Labour. Defeat, if defeat there be, will be laid at his door. In bleak moments, he thinks his successor will collect the fruits of his labour.

That would not be entirely just. It is not Mr Kinnock's fault that the Conservatives replaced a leader who had grown unpopular. It is not Mr Kinnock's fault that the recession appears to be bottoming out, and that inflation (thanks in part to a statistical quirk) has come down rapidly. It is not Mr Kinnock's fault that Mr Major has enjoyed such prominence on the international stage.

Compared with the postwar Labour leaders — Attlee, Gaitskell, Wilson, Callaghan, Foot — Mr Kinnock is neither at the top nor the bottom of the league. Of none of them could it be said with confidence that he could have prevented the Tories taking the lead again this summer. Nor, indeed, can it be said with confidence that any of them could have done as well as Mr Kinnock at managing his turbulent party; purging it of Militant, curbing the left, ditching unilateralism and embracing the market economy, all without splits and damaging resignations.

Mr Kinnock's perceived defects can be summarised as a lack of top and bottom, of brain and gravitas. But should these be fatal? Intellect is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition of success in politics. Of recent British prime ministers, he is not obviously inferior in brain power to Stanley Baldwin or Alec Douglas-Home, and not proven so to the present prime minister. Lack of bottom is a disadvantage. Mr Kinnock is too much one of the boys to stand out amongst the men; he could never be a dominant leader on the model of a Thatcher or a Churchill. But sensibly directed and imaginatively promoted, his virtues of high energy, gaiety, and a down-

to-earth lack of pomposity could be turned into compensating electoral attractions. Though he will never be a great leader, he could (like Attlee) be a successful head of a talented team.

Since the *Chariots of Fire* party political broadcast in 1987 which pushed his poll rating up by 17 percentage points, too little of the authentic Neil Kinnock has been seen. While Mrs Thatcher remained, she cornered the market for daring and adventure. Mr Kinnock's strategy was one of safety first. Policies were ditched; philosophies rendered miasmic; risks were eschewed and the moderate ground carefully cultivated. Against Mr Major, these tactics will not work. Mr Kinnock now finds himself in a political squeeze: between a prime minister who will outdo him for the "safety first" vote, and a leader of the Liberal Democrats who showed last week that he was willing and able to adopt the language of high risk. For too many voters, Mr Kinnock is the man who ditches everything and stands for nothing.

A repackaging of Mr Kinnock is now promised. But the product too needs some rapid re-examination. Mr Kinnock needs to define what he is, rather than what he is not. That process cannot be divorced from policy. He ought to choose from within Labour's voluminous pledges perhaps half a dozen with which he personally identifies: perhaps a commitment to open government, or tax reform, even local democracy.

These policies would sum up what, in Mr Kinnock's view, a modern Labour government would be about. Most important, they would represent clear commitments to which he would adhere, not embarrassments to be watered down or dropped as party opinion dictated. Round them could be built a positive Labour appeal.

Mr Kinnock needs to persuade voters that a Labour government would have its own distinctive colour. Otherwise why should they risk a change? Courage has always been among Mr Kinnock's virtues. For his party's sake, he must now dare to be different.

## SWEDEN REMODELS

The "Swedish model" has been a fixture of European politics since 1932, a form of Utopian socialism which predated the Iron Curtain and is almost as venerable as the communist state. Rational, humane, slum-free and almost crime-free, Sweden has been taken as proof that the socialist ideals of equality, security and solidarity could be compatible with exemplary prosperity.

The lure of a "middle way" between state socialism and raw capitalism has seduced politicians from Neil Kinnock to Mikhail Gorbachev. The former was doubtless impressed by the Social Democrats' tenure of power for all but six of the past 59 years, the latter desperate for a socially painless route out of the abyss of Stalin's command economy. For much of its history, thanks to a high degree of worker self-discipline which began to collapse only in the 1970s, the corporatist model served Sweden well. Its citizens, among the poorest in Europe in 1900, are among its wealthiest today, a record bound to impress Eastern Europeans struggling to modernise at the cost of record unemployment and individual hardship.

Yet the issue before Sweden's voters yesterday was not the survival, let alone the export, of the Swedish model: it has already been largely abandoned even by the Social Democrats who invented it. They have made the defeat of inflation their priority, displacing full employment. They have recognised popular demands for consumer choice and more play for individual initiative by reducing taxes, subsidies and welfare benefits and by beginning to privatise Sweden's vast state sector. Exchange controls have been abolished and even the farm subsidies which have helped make Swedish food the most expensive in the world are being phased out. In July, Sweden's application to join the European Community marked a decisive break with the insularity of Swedish "separateness". This sea-change was only been half-

acknowledged by the Social Democrat prime minister, Ingvar Carlsson. When he suggested as voters were heading for the polling booths yesterday that it was "more important" for his party to "remain a dominating force" in Swedish politics than to win the elections, he seemed to suggest that his party's ideals might lose a battle but win the war of ideas in the coming years.

His election campaign was full of nostalgic allusions to the state's duty to cocoon the young, sick, disabled and old against the slings of fortune. And it is true that in 1976-82, their only previous period out of office, the Social Democrats continued to set the social agenda from opposition, constraining the conservative governing coalition to pour money into uncompetitive heavy industry for fear of electoral revolt. But this time, the real handicap for the Social Democrats has been their loss of identity. They can neither entirely disown the Swedish model, nor explain how their new policies can be reconciled with it.

The newly-confident conservative coalition, committed to rolling back state intervention not only in industry but in people's lives, entered the election campaign having won the intellectual argument, certainly among the young. Carl Bildt, the radical 42-year-old who heads the main conservative party, the confusingly-named "Moderates", insists that "the Swedish model is dead".

Stolid Sweden is not about to convert to Nordic Thatcherism, but he is right about the retreat of corporatism. Voters have lost patience with high taxation and economic stagnation. They agree that Sweden cannot afford a social security system so all-pardoning that it finances an average of five working weeks a year in sick leave. The electoral debate has been about the speed, not the direction, of a transition to a more robust market-based economy. Mr Gorbachev, please note.

## ISLAND TO ISLAND

Japan does not figure on the average British tourist itinerary. If the British will not go to Japan, therefore, Japan must come to Britain. And it arrives, so to speak, today, when the Prince of Wales and the Crown Prince of Japan jointly open the Japan Festival 1991 in London — the sound of four hands clapping. No celebration of a foreign culture has been held on this scale in Britain before.

Viewed from the average British street, Japan is about efficient cars with odd names, high-tech gadgets and a strange if effective way of running British factories. In the back of the memory is a grim war, largely forgotten if not forgiven. But unlike America, where fear of Japan's economic might is currently in one of its periodic "yellow peril" phases, the British have no present-day fears or quarrels to stand in the way of a closer relationship with these other great islanders. They just haven't got round to it.

The reduction of a profound and ancient civilisation to a few superficial stereotypes is Britain's loss. But Japanese culture is not as easy for the British to apprehend as those of its nearer cultural neighbours. Before ever setting foot in Italy, a cultured Briton is ready for the beauties of the Italian Renaissance. The strangeness of Japanese culture, from its music and drama to its treatment of sexuality, is baffling to European taste.

What takes more effort is all the more worthwhile. The international language of visual art is the best point of entry — some

beauty is beautiful in any culture. The visual is what is stressed in the Japan Festival's centrepiece, one of the largest exhibitions ever displayed at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Yet classical Japanese art is not just breathtaking to look at; its combination of the representational, the stylised and the symbolic leads the beginner to an understanding of other facets of Japanese culture. Once captivated — and Japanese culture can be addictive — the initiate can progress to an appreciation of the structures of traditional Japanese music, the rituals of Japanese dance and the conventions of Noh drama, even of Japanese calligraphy.

What the festival cannot do — and it will disappoint the British if they approach it that way — is to rip aside the mystery and make all plain. Japanese art, like Japanese society, is multi-layered; and at the core of both is a state of mind drawn from Zen Buddhism. Zen is subjective, totally accessible only by total immersion. Viewed sceptically from outside, Zen is easily dismissed as mere ritual, symbol and paradox, the "nonsense" of the koan about the sound of one hand clapping. The current displays of Japanese cultural treasure, if nothing else, should lay that lie at least. The states of consciousness cultivated by the spirit of Zen inspire a richness of creativity that the British can only marvel at. And for the next four months they can do so without leaving their own shores.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Time to test Eastern bloc commitment to free enterprise

From Mr Ellsworth Donnell

Sir, The liberation of Eastern Europe and the dissolution of the Soviet Union create important challenges for the West. It is important that in our natural desire to assist these countries we do not lose sight of the fact that their circumstances are completely different from those of the industrial nations defeated in the Second World War.

As a former member of the Marshall Plan in the Italian Mission (1948-51) I accept that our most important contribution was foreign exchange, i.e., dollars and investment capital to oil the wheels of European industry devastated by war. We did give some technical assistance to industry and agriculture, but the entrepreneurial and managerial skills in a private-enterprise economy were already present.

Fiat did not need us to tell them how to make automobiles; all they required was money to pay for machine tools. It was basically a simple if expensive problem, and the US businessmen who administered the program to Fiat and other companies of equal sophistication realized it, and let the private European businessmen get on with the job.

Most important, the governmental financial infrastructure was in place. These were sophisticated economies with large, well-educated, trained and motivated work forces. Where currency reform was required, as in Germany, it was done quickly and courageously by skilled, competent managers.

The Marshall Plan was so successful that the US attempted to apply the same formula throughout the developing world. It failed in many situations for a variety of reasons: lack of adequate financial infrastructure; socialist governments with anti-free-trade, anti-private-enterprise attitudes stifling entrepreneurial skills; graft, corruption, an inadequately educated and trained work force; lack of experienced managers; punitive tax structures; and grandiose government-planned and directed projects, such as steel mills, which were costly, unneeded, and wasted resources.

Only in countries where the environment encouraged free trade and private enterprise could the US aid programs be called successful such as in Taiwan and South Korea. And it could be argued that those economies might have been successful without our assistance.

In the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe the basic human resources, intelligence, education and creativity are there in abundance, but are the governments really committed to encourage private enterprise and free trade? More important, has the legacy of 70 years of socialism crippled managerial practices and attitudes? What about the problem of privatization of the hundreds of thousands of state-owned companies?

Yes, we must give humanitarian aid now, and we must assist the economies. But to rush in with an enormous aid package without evidence that the basic infrastructure is being reformed would be a massive waste of resources and could even impede the necessary changes.

Our experience in the Marshall Plan showed that aid will not work unless the infrastructure is in place to nurture private enterprise and free trade. This will take time. Even Germany and Japan took 15 years for the economic miracle to materialize.

Yours sincerely,  
E. DONNELL  
(Director)  
Donnell Finance International,  
4 Upper Belgrave Street, SW1,  
September 12.

### National lottery and EC law

From Mr Andrew Tottenham

Sir, I have read with interest the recent correspondence (August 10, 16.20.27.30.31, September 5) regarding a national lottery. A point that seems to have been overlooked is the effect of European legislation on the legality of lottery tickets sold in the UK.

The department within the European Commission responsible for the formation of the single market has recently commissioned a study into gambling in the 12 member states.

This is as a direct result of the recent court case brought by Ladbrokes against the French PMU (Paris-mutuel) and complaints from the German lotteries about British customs seizing lottery tickets sent to servicemen in the UK. The study is the first step towards uniform gaming legislation within the EC. Governments, regulators and industry representatives are currently lobbying on behalf of their respective interests.

The Commission will be making proposals for pan-European legislation to cover all gaming industry sectors, including lotteries, and it is difficult to see how, bearing in mind article 90 of the Treaty of Rome, the UK government will be able to keep foreign lotteries from selling tickets in the UK.

The UK government's stated position that the UK does not have a tradition or culture of lotteries does not hold water: practically every school, scout and girl guide troupe, charity, club and society sells raffle tickets. The fact that there is no organised national lottery is more a factor of legislation than culture.

Until other nations legalised lotteries they were not "part of their culture". Once lotteries are introduced they prove to be very popular and successful. Modern technology can already provide a secure and accountable game.

The point is that UK residents will be able to purchase tickets from all other national lotteries. With the current state of data processing and satellite technology these national lotteries will be linked to form a pan-European lottery.

Unfortunately, if the UK government decides not to allow a national lottery the benefits from tickets sold within these borders will go overseas. A national lottery would provide a reliable source of revenue for charities which would enable them to plan for the long term and be less reliant on rather unpredictable and ineffectual fund-raising.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW TOTTENHAM  
(Managing Director),  
Tottenham & Co.,  
Beckhaven House,  
9 Gilbert Road, SE11,  
September 9.

### Ticket agency collapse

From Mr David Sonn

Sir, The unprejudiced collapse of Keith Prowse has no doubt caused some red faces in SW19. At this year's Wimbledon, the organisers were cock-a-hoop at the success of their attempts to eradicate the tout, who purchases a ticket from someone who does not want it and sells it to someone who does. Their success had the effect of almost destroying the unofficial hospitality market, in favour of Keith Prowse.

Now we learn (report, September 10) that the receiver foresees little prospect of the All England Lawn Tennis Club being paid in full. Perhaps the organisers will now rethink their strategy and accept payment from all those willing and able to pay for an allocation of tickets.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID J. SONN,  
Flat 2, 84A Carlton Hill,  
St John's Wood, NW8.

### A special date

From Mrs B. J. Stott

Sir, Next Thursday gives us a splendid palindromic: 19.9.1991. Yours faithfully,  
BEVERLEY STOTT  
(Headteacher),  
Beechview County Middle School,  
Guilford Road,  
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire,  
September 15.

### My, my

From Mr F. M. White

Sir, "Forgive me overhearing" chipped in a passing pedant, reported Craig Brown (... and moreover, September 5). Forgive my mentioning it, but haven't they both got it wrong?  
Yours truly,  
F. M. WHITE,  
19 Clarendon Road, Cambridge.

### And no mistake

From Mr G. W. Richardson

Sir, A pools firm invites me to renew my standing entry by phone. I note that "lines are open 24 hours a day, between 9am Monday and 3pm Friday".

Yours faithfully,  
G. W. RICHARDSON,  
9 Greenview Avenue, Shirley,  
Croydon, Surrey,  
September 11.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

### Soviet alternatives

From Lord Gladwyn

Sir, With the conclusion of Concorde O'Brien's excellent article (September 11) we can surely all agree. The best outcome would be the emergence in Moscow of some kind of confederation of independent republics to replace the existing USSR. But this is on the assumption that such republics agree that the new confederation is represented on the Security Council of the United Nations by a body capable of taking independent decisions — perhaps by some form of majority vote.

Otherwise United Nations decisions of world importance might (in theory) be held up by a veto of, e.g., Tadzhikistan! After all, the Ukraine and Belorussia have been (nominally) independent members of the United Nations from the start, though there has so far been no question of their being elected to the Security Council.

The alternatives to the establishment of some such confederation would indeed seem to be (a) an effective failure to base the coming world order on the United Nations; or (b) the successful assertion by the Russian republic of its right (if only by reason of its great size and nuclear power) to continue as the fifth permanent member of the Security Council, or (c) in Concorde O'Brien's words, "the confrontation with a desperate, ruined successor-state system, threatened with internal anarchy but still in possession of nuclear weapons".

Incidentally, if a workable Eastern confederation on the lines suggested ever emerges, what is the likelihood of the proposed European political union being eventually based on similar lines? What is sauce for the Eastern European goose is, on the face of it, sauce for the Western gander.

Yours truly,  
GLADWYN,  
House of Lords,  
September 11.

### Changing peaks

From Mr W. S. Bagshaw

Sir, Communism, Lenin, Revolution and Karl Marx, peas in the Pamir range are likely to be renamed by Tadzhikistan. Communism Peak was originally Mt Garmo, then Mt Stalin from 1933 (when it was first climbed) until 1962.

Attempts to memorialise the latest political changes should be eschewed in favour of the ancient names. Mountains owe their being to shifts geological, not ideological.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM S. BAGSHAW,  
52 Cambridge Road, SE20,  
September 10.

### Spies apart

From Mr Bernard Perkins

Sir, Is there a moral equation between the glory currently accorded to Oleg Gordievsky and the obloquy rightly heaped on the head of George Blake?

Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD PERKINS,  
38 Cedars Close,  
Dulwich, SE21.

### Post-communist clue

From Mrs Isabel Haydon

Sir, Where will the fellow traveller go now, and with whom?

Yours faithfully,  
ISABEL HAYDON,  
Le Picachon,  
La Rue des Bouillons,  
Trinité, Jersey, CI.

### Central danger

From the Chairman of the Association of London Authorities

Sir, Douglas Broom (report, September 9) rightly identifies the dangers of the increasing centralism in government. If anything, he underestimates its potential damage.

We are entering an ever-more united Europe. But it will be a Europe of the regions. This is well recognised by our continental neighbours, but seems to have escaped the attention of Michael Heseltine, whose local government review

### Mortgage arrears

From the Director General of the Council of Mortgage Lenders

Sir, Your leader, "Fending off the bailiff" (September 9), deals with important issues arising from the substantial increase in mortgage repossessions, itself a consequence of the depth of the recession in the housing market.

However, contrary to what was claimed, the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) has made no proposal for the government to put £400 million into a special fund to buy homes from people facing repossession, allowing them to remain as tenants. It is difficult to see that, in itself, this could achieve much, bearing in mind that tenants are more likely to face action for possession than are owner-occupiers.

What the CML has put to the government is a scheme which would allow housing associations to buy properties from owner-occupiers who face losing their homes. The property would have to be sold at the end of five years (when perhaps it could be taken into the association's stock in the usual way). To make most effective use of public

### Birds and bees

From Ms M. Tan

Sir, Bernard Levin ("Those dodges were dead right", September 9) misses the basic point which underpins compassion, that all living creatures and nature itself have a right to live, that contrary to the mechanistic world view, they do not exist merely for our pleasure or exploitation. Indeed, man's so-called superiority gives him a certain responsibility to this planet.

Levin may not mourn the loss of another tree, animal, or natural habitat, he may even ridicule the Buddhist's dedication to compassion. One thing, however, is certain, this earth can manage very nicely

Yours faithfully,  
M. TAN,  
105 Wandover House,  
Chiltern Street, W1.

### M25 benefits

From Mr Bernard Cooke

Sir, Contrary to the view expressed by A. M. Askew (September 10) the government's decision to widen the M25 suggests, surely, that it is indeed in touch with its people on the matter of transport.

Mr Askew may, of course, be correct that many people are badly affected by the M25 but that should not blind us to the fact that for a very much greater number the M25 is of major benefit.

If it has reduced the price of, or the ability to sell, properties very close by, it has more than offset this by increasing values dramatically a little further away. Proximity to the M25 comes high on the list of estate agents' selling points.

The main error the government seems to have made is the decision to add only one extra lane.

Yours faithfully,  
B. COOKE,  
1 Kensington Place,  
Clifton, Bristol, Avon.

ignores the importance of devolving power regionally. Much European funding is already dealt with regionally.

The lack of financial control available to councils not only creates the ludicrous situations suggested by Mr Broom, it also severely undermines local democracy. The result of the poll tax fiasco has not merely wasted public funds, it has also meant that voters are effectively unable to make choices about the level of services they would like locally.

If we are serious about shifting

funds the role of the government would simply be to guarantee the housing associations against loss.

Your suggestion that the system for helping owner-occupiers through income support should be revised has much to commend it. A specific amount of income support is given to mortgage interest but there are no effective arrangements to ensure that the money is used for its intended purpose. The CML has been discussing this issue with the Department of Social Security and we hope that more effective arrangements can be introduced shortly.

Finally, you suggest that lenders should not demand swift repayment of arrears built up in the first 16 weeks of unemployment during which time income support meets only half the mortgage interest. Lenders do not. Indeed, following representations made to the DSS at the time, income support is available to meet interest on these accumulated arrears.

Yours faithfully,  
MARK BOLEAT,  
Director General,  
Council of Mortgage Lenders,  
3 Savile Row, W1,  
September 10.

### From Mr Jonathan Sumption

Sir, Hooray, some common sense about the animal kingdom at last and from a towny as well.

We could certainly do with a migration of Levins in this part of Somerset. Our current infestation of townies has been giving some very strange lectures on how country folk should behave in the country we know and love.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN SUMPTION,  
Foxmoor Nurseries,  
Wellington,  
Somerset,  
September 9.

### From Mr Martin Corney

Sir, I fear that as species disappear the complex ecology in which we exist may become so depleted that it can no longer support me. I may be wrong, but I prefer not to risk the only one of me that I've got.

While I exist, and since I do not have the limited viewpoint of a creepycrawlyphobe, I prefer to live in an enthralling world that is rich in species diversity, even strange species such as that containing B. Levin.

Yours etc.,  
M. CORNEY,  
Corney House,  
St Ives,  
Cornwall.

### Crumbling rock

From Mr John Bagley

Sir, As a rock-climber of an earlier generation I was expected to leave the rock-face in the unsullied state in which I found it. I was saddened therefore to read in Ronald Faux's article (September 9) that the Old Man of Hoy is littered with "rusty bolts and wooden wedges".

The photograph of Faux shows that he himself went equipped with an array of ironmongery capable of inflicting more damage. He witnessed such damage when a climbing party ahead caused lumps of this fragile structure to "whistle into space".

Has the time not come to put a stop to this vandalism? Is there no way in which the "crumbling colossus" can be put out of bounds to climbers?

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN BAGLEY,  
33 Hamilton Road,  
Cockfosters, Hertfordshire,  
September 9.

power to the citizen, we must devolve power to the lowest practical level: that means local councils, with neighbourhood offices and customer contracts at one level, and regional councils taking power from Whitehall at another.

Such a solution is both democratic and enabling. It is also the only way we can play a full part in the new Europe.

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET HODGE, Chairman,  
Association of London Authorities,  
36 Old Queen Street, SW1,  
September 9.



















By PHILIP WEBSTER AND GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

### Lubbers: wants to succeed Delors at commission



## Diplomatic effort page 8

Mr Kinnock will say that, at the election, voters will have a choice between a Conservative government offering more of the same, consumption-led recovery, or a Labour alternative of investment-led recovery. He will call for

The upheaval in Yugoslavia has also generated business for the firm, which employs 35 people. With the eight Yugoslav republics and autonomous provinces now vying

**Chez Laureen:** "A master of romantic imagery, he has always said he is inspired by the timeless elegance of Garbo and Hepburn (Katharine, not Audrey), as well as the Duke of Windsor and Cary Grant. His understated, thoroughly chic reflects as much his own American heritage of rugged western denims and pioneer patchworks as the tweed and tartan of the English aristocracy." Thus Liz Smith sums up Ralph Lauren, who celebrates the tenth anniversary of the opening of his London shop by unveiling his newest venture in Britain: a home furnishings range.

**The solution of  
Saturday's Prize  
Puzzle No 18,711 will  
appear next Saturday.  
The 5 winners will  
receive a Duofold  
fountain pen supplied  
by Parker**



● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-25  
● EDUCATION 26,27  
● LAW 29  
● DEGREE RESULTS 30  
● SPORT 31-36

## Meeting fails to unblock trade talks

By COLIN NARBROUGH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

TOP trade representatives of America, Canada, Japan and the European Community appear to have failed at the weekend to unblock the stalled talks on a world trade pact.

The two-day informal meeting in the French town of Angers, which brought together the nations responsible for two-thirds of world trade, came ahead of the resumption in Geneva today of complex technical negotiations on trade agreements for manufactures, farm products and services.

There is now much doubt over whether agreement can be reached by December, a year after the first deadline. Despite warnings from both sides of the Atlantic about the threat of failure, the talks would pose to the world economy, the key players have been slow to compromise on farm subsidies, the main obstacle.

At the London summit in July, the Group of Seven leaders declared a successful outcome to the Uruguay Round talks on free trade as the top economic priority. They set the end of this year as a new deadline and stressed the importance of free trade in helping the former Soviet empire shift to the market system.

Reluctance to open up the European Community to im-

## EC believes Hanson will not bid for ICI

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

EUROPEAN Commission officials are largely ruling out the likelihood of a bid by Hanson, the Anglo-American industrial conglomerate, for Imperial Chemical Industries, the British chemicals company.

Although no formal statement will be made by the commission on a bid, the EC is understood to believe that Hanson will not make a move.

The EC's interest in any possible bid for ICI after Hanson took a 2.8 per cent stake lies mainly in the powers held by Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, to

regulate proposed large-scale corporate mergers.

Under European merger control policy, any bid where the parties have a combined turnover of more than Ecu5bn (about £3.7 billion) is judged to have a Community-wide dimension, and has to be referred to Brussels for decision by the EC's merger task force, which marks its first year of operation this week.

Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, accepts that were Hanson to make a bid for ICI, Brussels would have prime jurisdiction in ruling whether it should proceed. His reliance on the primacy of the EC has led to Labour and other criticism of

him, and suggestions that not only another government, but perhaps even another minister, might well take a different view.

Competition officials within the community have been studying the progress of the Hanson-ICI relationship since Hanson took up its ICI shares, in readiness not only for having to deal with a possible bid for the chemicals company but to deal with it quickly. Euro-MPs have, however, called for any investigation mounted by the Commission under its merger powers to be a full-length enquiry, for as long as four to five months, rather than a four-week look.

Community officials, like many connected with the Hanson-ICI affair, were convinced that if a bid were going to be made, it would have been made during the summer, when both the British and European parliaments were in recess.

They believe that because Hanson has not made a move, the likelihood of a bid being made at all by Hanson is substantially reduced.

Some close to ICI have been convinced that the Community has been keen to involve itself in the interplay between Hanson and the chemicals company. The acceptance by Europe that a bid from Hanson is now unlikely will also add to the growing confidence among some around ICI that the bid will never materialise. Other ICI managers, however, will still need convincing that not only will Hanson make a bid, but that ICI ought to maintain its defences against one.

In Brussels, some within the Commission will see the easing of the likelihood of a Hanson bid as a lost opportunity for Sir Leon, who is thought to harbour ambitions of taking over as EC president from Jacques Delors.

All the merger task force's decisions so far have, however, been made strictly on competition policy. In the event of a Hanson move for ICI being referred to Brussels, Sir Leon would be likely to stick to such criteria in reaching a decision.

Shaping up for battle, page 24

## G7 summit on aid unlikely

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE closed-door meeting of the Group of Seven deputies, or "sherpas", in Dresden, Germany, yesterday, is unlikely to lead to an urgent summit conference on aid for the Soviet Union.

Although last month's failed coup in Moscow increased pressure on the leading industrial nations to support Soviet reform, the next G7 meeting is expected to be the meeting of finance ministers and central bankers at the International Monetary Fund session, already scheduled for next month in Bangkok, Thailand.

Until the finance ministers and central bankers have discussed the substance of an aid programme, European officials believe a summit meeting would be inappropriate, possibly counter-productive.

Germany, which has led the western camp favouring immediate support for the Soviet Union, has, however, ruled out any large financial package. Instead, Bonn is pressing for the Soviet Union to be granted full membership of the IMF, to give it access to the fund's resources. The Germans, who called the Dresden meeting, despite Britain cur-

rently holding the G7 chairmanship, also want to put pressure on Japan to secure more financial support towards restoring the crumbling economies of the former Soviet bloc.

Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, is due to talk to President Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, in Moscow next week. Herr Waigel is understood to be expecting a formal list of Soviet aid requirements. The request for urgent food aid already submitted by the Soviet Union was expected to be discussed at Dresden, as were proposals from the western banking community that Moscow should be given bridging finance to overcome its immediate liquidity problems.

Today, Dresden will host a meeting of Working Party 3, the group of experts from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, who regularly review the world economy. Tomorrow, deputy finance ministers of the ten leading industrial nations will meet to prepare for the IMF session next month.

## Survey reinforces City fears

CITY fears that London is losing its lure as a world financial centre will be reinforced by the findings of a London Chamber of Commerce and Industry survey that details the concern of foreign banks about the British capital (Colin Narbrough writes).

The survey, published today, finds that the chief complaint of foreign banks and businesses operating in London is the lack of co-ordinated strategic planning for the capital, a shortcoming unknown on the Continent.

The creation of an effective strategic body is "fundamen-

tal" to London's ability to maintain business and attract future inward investment, the chamber says.

Higher costs, the weak transport system and the relatively poor quality of life, compared with other centres, such as Paris, are identified as important factors against London.

British Invisibles, the City lobby group, has long sought to underline the importance to the economy of maintaining London's position in the first rank of world financial centres, along with Tokyo and New York.

Britain's private sector ser-

vice industries boosted their surplus with the rest of the world 25 per cent to £2.03 billion in the second quarter this year, demonstrating the important role City earnings play in the balance of payments.

The survey notes that because all the leading foreign financial institutions already operate in the London market, London can no longer rely on new institutions to provide significant growth. Instead, it says that London's future will depend on maintaining its current base and its relative advantage to other financial centres.



Heavyweight issue: Norman Willis is wrestling with the need to improve relations

## Japanese protest to TUC over 'alien' criticism

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

JAPANESE companies manufacturing in Britain have protested to the Trades Union Congress over its condemnation of "alien" Japanese working practices in British plants, and union leaders are trying to rebuild bridges with Japanese employers over the affair.

Senior managers of Japanese companies operating in Britain have privately protested to TUC leaders after the decision of the TUC conference in Glasgow to approve criticism of Japanese employment practices from the MSF general technical union.

Labour party leaders have also privately criticised the TUC's endorsement of the MSF move. One senior Labour figure described the TUC's decision as "chronically braindead".

Though they denied it, MSF leaders were attacked as "racist" for their criticism of Japanese plants in Britain and their "alien approach" to British trade unionism. The MSF attacked the "feudal" industrial relations systems operated by the Japanese.

The issue is sensitive, partly because of the Japan Festival due to open in Britain this week, but more particularly in industry because of the inter-union competition to sign a single-union deal with Toyota, Japan's largest car manufacturer, for its new plants in Britain.

A number of Japanese companies, including Nissan, the carmaker, and Komatsu, the earthmoving equipment firm, both of which have single-

union deals with the AEU, have made clear their concern over the TUC decision.

They have told TUC leaders that the decision is likely to impair Japanese-British relations as a breach of protocol.

TUC leaders, embarrassed by the conference decision, are anxious to try to change any impression that the decision may have given that the unions are opposed to investment in Britain from foreign companies. Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said: "We are not opposed to inward investment - from Japan, from America, from

anywhere." The TUC is to try to reassure Japanese employers directly on the issue next month when leaders of the Japanese Nikkeiren employers' body, dealing with industrial relations, arrive in London.

Ken Nagano, president of the body, is visiting Britain for three days of talks with a range of organisations, including the CBI. He was due to meet the TUC as well, but Mr Willis will be away during the visit. TUC officials are now trying to reschedule Mr Willis' appointments to allow for the Japanese meeting.

## UK firms fare well in profit rankings

By GEORGE SIVELL

BT AND British Gas, two privatised companies whose regulated profits have been criticised as excessive, are highly rated in a new ranking by the London Business School of the world's most profitable companies.

Glaxo, the chemicals company, comes out top over the past decade, taking a net 27.8p out of every pound of sales despite high spending on research to find a successor to Zantac, the anti-ulcer drug whose patent runs out in 2002.

As its measure, the LBS uses profit margin over the past ten years, adjusted for the nominal cost of capital, to balance labour intensive against capital intensive companies.

The school says: "The salient feature is the preponderance of pharmaceutical companies and utilities at the upper end of the table. As both sectors are heavily indebted to government regulators for their profits - via procurement policy or direct regulation - both might less than welcome recognition of their dexterity at churning in the profits. The same would be true for BT, which has by far the highest ratio of added value to sales of any company in the world of a comparable size and British Gas."

Cable and Wireless comes second, making 23.1p in the pound, while BT is placed 21st and British Gas 75th, making 11.4p of profit in the pound.

A measure of the difficulty of carrying out this type of exercise is the placing of Brent Walker. The company, now fighting for corporate survival, is listed as the 37th most successful medium-sized company in the world.

The world's 10 most successful companies

	Added value (%)
1 Glaxo	27.8
2 Cable & Wireless	23.1
3 Pub Service (US)	22.9
4 Merck	22.3
5 Eli Lilly	21.7
6 American Home Products	21.5
7 PSI Resources Inc	20.7
8 Ohio Edison	20.3
9 Baltimore Gas	20.1
10 Cathay Pacific	19.9

\*Defined as profit margin adjusted for nominal cost of capital. Source: London Business School, Business Strategy Review.

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## Dowding says Torday needs new charge

By GEORGE SIVELL

THE neon lights in London's Piccadilly Circus may soon have a special message for Dowding & Mills, the Birmingham electrical and mechanical repair specialist, which expects to launch a £13.6 million bid this morning for Torday & Carlisle, the Newcastle engineering and signs group.

At the same time as the bid for Torday, which has the contract to keep the neon lights around Piccadilly in glowing condition, Dowding will reveal a profits fall from £16.7 million to £8.4 million in the year to end-June. Despite a fall in earnings from 5.96p to 4.09p, the dividend will rise 11 per cent to 2.4p.

Dowding picked up a 5.9 per cent stake in Torday in the market late on Friday at about 60p a share. The bid, in the form of seven Dowding shares for every five Torday shares, values the Newcastle group at £4.7p a share or £13.6 million.

Peter Hollings, Dowding chairman, says: "Since flotation early in 1990 Torday's

performance has been lamentable." Torday traded for many years on the over-the-counter market operated by Granville before floating on the main stock market at 155p in March 1990. But the shares fell 34p to 60p on August 23 after a slide into first-half losses of £634,000 from £1.5 million of profit. The losses were blamed on the Oldham Signs division.

Torday's more profitable divisions include reconditioning marine diesel engines. The company also owns Elfab Hughes, which makes pressure relief valves for the petrochemical and pharmaceutical industries.

Paul Torday, chairman of Torday, could not be contacted by his advisers yesterday with news of the impending bid. The advisers said if the board did not think the terms were fair, the bid would be rejected. Torday's advisers were warned of the likelihood of a bid by Barings, Dowding's merchant bank, on Friday, but the terms were not disclosed.

## Greece appeals for British trade

By PHILIP PANGALOS



Trade mission: Mr Mitsotakis in London yesterday

CONSTANTINE Mitsotakis, the Conservative prime minister of Greece, arrived in London yesterday seeking British trade and investment.

Mr Mitsotakis, who is due to meet John Major during his two-day visit, will today address a conference organised by the Confederation of British Industry with the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. Issues to be discussed will include Greek development policy, privatisation, changes in the Greek financial sector and the Athens stock exchange.

The talks are aimed at increasing trade between Britain and Greece after a 20 per cent rise in British exports to Greece last year.

Any investment will be welcomed by the New Democracy government, which faces formidable problems as it tries to bring Greece economically into line with the rest of the European Community via single market legislation and liberalisation of markets and policies.

A vigorous privatisation programme has been promised, and British companies stand to benefit as their Greek counterparts seek expertise. Plans for several privatisations before the end of this year will, however, almost certainly be delayed.

## Airlines boosted by business class

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

A SLOW but perceptible increase in the number of passengers travelling business class has brought the first ray of hope to the airline industry, suffering from the worst recession in its history.

The gradual improvement in yield — the average revenue per seat — has, however, ruled out any hopes of reductions in air fares.

In 1990 165 of the leading airlines made a cumulative loss of \$2.5 billion. Indications are that total losses this year will be twice as much.

Some analysts assumed that the collapse in revenues over the past 12 months would lead to a price war, especially on the Atlantic routes where British Airways is involved in a battle with American rivals. In reality, none of the airlines can afford to cut prices except at the margin and have instead reduced capacity by using smaller aircraft or by cutting the number of flights.

David Coltman, vice president of United Airlines, said yesterday: "We are being extremely careful not to drive prices down. There will, of course, be a few special offers because we will all be under pressure this winter, but the

numbers will be carefully regulated and available mainly to long operators.

"The first-class business class market is just coming back and our load factors are holding up very well."

Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of BA, also ruled out a price war. "I am not aware of plans for prices to be reduced further," he said. "We are going to see the airlines continuing to make attractive offers on a selective basis but they will be controlled so they protect our profits by selling seats which would have flown empty but will not be aimed at reducing revenues."

BA carried only 4 per cent fewer passengers in August than last time and indications are that September will be slightly better and that, if the recession does end, traffic levels will be back at the same level as 1990 by the year's end.

With overall losses on international services expected to be around \$5 billion for 1991, however, dozens of smaller or financially weak airlines could be swallowed up by the giants. Ironically this would lead to less competition just as the European Commission moves to more liberal air services.

## Warburg completes US talks

By OUR CITY STAFF

WARBURG, the London merchant bank unwittingly drawn into the American scandal surrounding Salomon, the securities group, said yesterday that no further meetings were planned with American regulators after appointments with the US Treasury and the Securities and Exchange Commission last week.

Warburg and Mercury Asset Management, its fund management group, say they are "satisfied that at no stage did any member of their firms act improperly" and that they are "considering what action they may take".

They added: "No one at Mercury or at Warburg had any reason to believe or suspect that what was described by Paul Mozer, managing director of Salomon in charge of fixed interest trading, as a clerical error was in fact part of a pattern of improper or unlawful activities or that Salomon would not, as committed to do, bring the matter to the US Treasury's attention." Because of the nature of American bond auctions, Warburg said Mr Mozer's explanation of the use of MAM's name as a clerical error was not suspicious.

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## Sterling-mark yield spread set to narrow

Gilts are responding to two opposing pressures. Recession and disinflation at home tend to produce a positively sloped yield curve. International influences, on the other hand, are cancelling out that tendency and keeping the yield curve inverted. Domestic arguments have dominated through the summer but, with EC finance ministers returning to consider the outlines of EMU, the gilt market is likely to pay more attention to the international angle in the weeks ahead.

After three years of monetary squeeze, inflation is trending down. That has had a beneficial effect on the market's inflation expectations. Even so, long-dated yields have declined far less from their peak than those on short-dated stocks. Since April 1990, the gross redemption yield on Treasury 8½ per cent 1997 has dropped by 350 basis points, while that on Treasury 9 per cent 2008 is down only 250.

Recession has caused a significant shift in the pattern of fund flow. Whereas in the late Eighties the boom was fuelled by heavy short-term borrowing by individuals and companies, the subsequent economic downturn has curbed the demand for credit at banks and building societies. Lenders, too, are more cautious, given worries over prudential control and capital adequacy. Upward pressure on short-term interest rates, marked in the late 1980s, has eased as borrowing demand in this segment of the maturity spectrum has dried up.

Meanwhile, at the long end of the spectrum, availability of funds has tightened. Two or three years ago, the government was a net repayer of debt. Companies preferred to finance themselves short-term rather than in the bond and equity markets. The stream of new money into life assurance and pension funds pushed long yields down relative to short-term interest rates, and there was no countervailing pressure.

With recession, the government became again a seller of gilts to finance its deficit; companies chose to restructure their balance sheets through capital issues in the long-term markets; and weakness in the housing market restrained the flow of premiums into investing funds. Though the whole rate structure has come down, long yields have lagged.

Even if the economy recovers next year, the influences on long yields from

negative fund flow are likely to persist. The FSB will shrink and could go on rising as the government, Conservative or Labour, boosts spending on "earring" provisions. Companies will still under-reliance on short-term credit for some time. The flow of savings into institutions investing in long-term could suffer as wages growth slows. Domestic influences, therefore, will reinforce the pattern of lower short rates and lagging long yields.

Stepped back on this pattern, the convergence arguments associated with the approach to EMU. The government has made ERM commitment the centrepiece of its monetary strategy. A move to the mechanism's 2½ per cent narrow band cannot be ruled out over the next few months. In any event, the government will give the market no reason to doubt that the pound's link with the German mark will be preserved and reinforced. That should be enough to support convergence of sterling and mark bond yields.

The yield spread between 10-year gilts and Bunds is currently around 130 basis points. That compares with spreads over Bunds of 75 basis points or less for Belgian, Danish and French government bonds. Even if gilts cannot go all the way to match the ratings of these markets, there is probably scope for a fall of up to 30 basis points in long gilt yields.

For the short end of the maturity range, on the other hand, the implications of ERM commitment are probably more bearish than the market is currently discounting. UK short rates will probably need to maintain a small margin over German rates, and probably over French ones, to underpin sterling. That implies that there will be little scope for further short-term rate cuts once base rates are down to 10 per cent.

Whatever the political pressures, the government will be unable to deliver lower rates without jeopardising the ERM link.

In the months ahead, conflicting domestic and international forces will vie for supremacy. Because EMU is now topical, the international ones will probably dominate for the time being. That means investors are likely to switch more funds from shorter-dated gilts into the long end of the market.

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# Costing the economic rise and fall

## ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

At 11.30 this morning, it should be clear whether the recession has finally ended. If the industrial production and retail sales figures to be released today show further rises, an end to the decline in the economy by the next quarter at the latest would be almost assured.

Coming on top of the defeat of inflation triumphantly announced by the prime minister on Friday, the end of the recession would suggest that all the government's economic objectives have been met. At next month's conservative conference, with the pound securely in its ERM band and after another cut in interest rates, John Major would be able to declare "mission accomplished".

With this story gaining ground, it is perhaps hardly surprising that the Conservatives win hands down over the other parties in the electorate's perception of economic competence. Competence, after all, is the ability to perform a given task successfully. The term carries no implication that the task in question is worth performing or even makes sense. This distinction is important.

The government set out a year ago to cut inflation and stabilise the currency, and it has done the job. But at what cost?

The underlying rate of inflation has fallen by roughly three percentage points at the cost of 700,000 jobs. By the end of Mr Major's shock treatment, the trade off will stand at about 5 points of inflation against at least 1 million extra jobs. Sterling has remained stable, apparently confounding claims that its ERM entry rate was dangerously overvalued. Again, at what cost? A recession as long and as deep, as the slump of the early Eighties.

Combining the collapse of domestic consumption last year with the unprecedented boom in Germany's appetite for imports, it is hardly surprising that Britain's export industries and balance of payments have just about survived the first year of the ERM ordeal. Only when spending in Britain picks up and German growth slows down to a

sustainable rate will it be time to reach a verdict on ERM entry.

Of course, domestic spending may not rise substantially for years and unemployment may remain above 2½ million until the middle of the decade. That is the prospect that most forecasters now hold out. But if so, then another half decade of economic misery will have to be added to the ERM's debts.

It appears the big mistake of the government's critics, myself included, was that we were not gloomy enough. We thought the exchange rate might not hold because the government would try to stop an economic collapse. We assumed interest rates would be cut to about 10 per cent in time to prevent an economic

calamity, almost a million lost jobs and tens of thousands of business bankruptcies.

The critics have been confounded, as in the early Eighties, by the government's ability to wish such outcomes on the nation and by the electorate's willingness to grin and bear it. According to conventional wisdom, this unexpected stoicism of the British people is the most enduring and valuable legacy of Margaret Thatcher.

Workers have accepted redundancies and lower wages. Employers now see huge fluctuations in their output, demand and investment as an inevitable fact of life. But how will these much vaunted signs of "economic flexibility" boost Britain

from the bottom to the top of the world's economic performance league?

The Thatcher and Major recessions have shown that the voters do not care about economic fluctuations nearly as much as used to be believed. All three political parties have rejected deliberate macroeconomic management in their manifestos. This has been probably the most remarkable political consequence of the Thatcher years.

The last 12 years have also proved, however, that government's refusal to counteract the economic cycle tends to make both the downswings and the upswings more severe. This is, indeed, the fundamental message of Keynesian economics. Keynesians have never suggested that recessions would go on forever without government action, only that carefully calibrated policies could make the cycles less disruptive. Putting these

observations together, Britain is likely to go on suffering much more severe economic fluctuations in the years ahead than it did in the past, before the Thatcherite consensus prevailed. Will this affect Britain's long-term economic performance? Nobody knows the answer. But it seems unlikely that suffering large fluctuations and half-decade periods of under-employment will strengthen relative industrial performance at a time when Japan, America and Germany are trying to moderate cycles and maintain full employment.

Ten years after the Thatcher recession, Britain has almost no world-class manufacturing companies left, outside the chemicals, aerospace, steel and pharmaceutical centres. The present recession has raised doubts about the futures of several of these remaining industries, and more importantly, has jeopardised the service and financial sectors.

Which companies in those sectors will remain world leaders five years after the Major recession? Replies please in time for the election of 1996.

## Cycling insurers sweat through the arid summer of recession

Losses from fire, theft and subsidence force the insurance industry to take the premium path to recovery

INSURERS, if we are to believe the advertising slogan, never make a drama out of a crisis. Yet there have been more than a few dramas enacted in their own boardrooms this summer, as directors struggled to come to terms with the worst slump in the industry's history.

The composite insurers have just reported a series of results that would have destroyed lesser companies. The big five, Commercial Union, General Accident, Guardian Royal Exchange, Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance, reported aggregate losses of £426 million, or £2.3 million a day, for the first six months of the year.

The losses have come almost without exception from the insurers' core operations in Britain. They are all the more remarkable since the weather was relatively kind to Britain's householders and car owners during the period, compared with last year when they were battered by a succession of storms.

The City, however, has been decidedly sanguine about the losses. The share prices of many of the companies actually rose when their losses were announced, in the hope that things could not, now, get any worse. Indeed, the message from all the companies is the same: dire though the losses may be, they have finally taken the tough decision to sacrifice market share for profitability, and are forcing through sharp increases in all classes of business.

Insurance is a textbook example of a cyclical industry, and most of its professionals



Profits up in flames: fires increase as businesses fail

are resigned to huge swings from profits to losses, and back, every five to ten years. As profits from underwriting rise, newcomers are tempted into the market, attracted by its relatively low start-up costs. As competition increases, a price war begins, and premium rates fall. This pushes the insurers into losses, which in turn forces companies to close or pull out of the market. Once competition reduces, profitability returns, and the cycle starts again.

The theory is unquestionable, although the peaks and troughs of the cycle have never been extreme as today. The main question for analysts and investors is where the market has reached in its cycle. More specifically, has the market bottomed out, and will it now recover?

The answer is, probably, finally, thankfully yes. The only feature of the insurers' results that met with approval in the City, and caused the resilience in their share prices, was the firm evidence they provided of the rise in premium rates. Householders and car owners will soon be feeling the full effects of the insurers' losses. The average cost of a motor policy will rise by more than 20 per cent this year.

House structure rates are to increase by at least 15 per cent, and homeowners in areas where there is a high risk of subsidence, including most of the Southeast, will see their premiums doubled. House contents policies, too, are being increased as theft claims continue to rise.

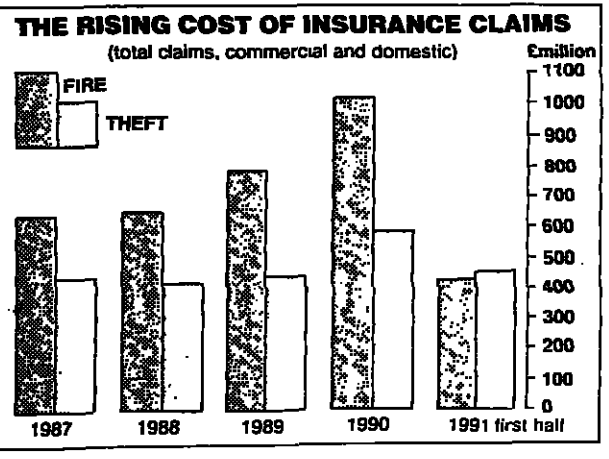
Commercial policies are under similar review, although competition is still tough enough to hamper the insurers' attempts to levy increased premiums. Overall though, these rises should begin to curtail underwriting losses in Britain. Some insurers began to see the effects in the second quarter.

But the recovery is not likely to be speedy. Insurance claims are currently being inflated by several factors: some recessionary, others climatic.

There may have been no storms last winter, but the insurers are reeling from a succession of dry summers. Subsidence claims have risen from an average industry level of £100 million a year, to £300 million in 1989, £500 million last year and £277 million in the first half of this year according to the Association of British Insurers.

The introduction of high structure rates for areas with clay subsoil will help reduce the losses, but the insurers are clearly hoping for rain. Royal meanwhile is employing team of structural engineers to help reduce the cost of subsidence work, and have already saved £250,000 on ten projects.

Insurers believe an early end to the recession would also give them a much-needed boost in several areas. They



## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Brassie in pocket

ROBERT Sangster, the racing tycoon, and his son, Guy, are among the first British celebrities to have signed up to Royal Mougins, the £15 million golf course being built on the Côte d'Azur. Stefan Ederberg and Hans Porsche have also put their names down for the club, which has a membership fee of £20,000 and an annual charge of £2,000. Membership will be restricted to about 700 people and the developers include Melvyn Simon, the American property entrepreneur. The Royal Mougins is due to open in October 1992.

### Handsome

LORD Hanson will take a trip back to his home town tomorrow. He has agreed to be on hand for the reopening, after a

£1 million refurbishment, of an old Hanson haunt — The George hotel in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. He has, however, resisted the temptation to have a room named after him — unlike Harold Wilson, who lent his name to the honeymoon suite in the nearby Huddersfield Hotel.



"Remember the good old days? When we worried about inflation?"

Anita Roddick's autobiography, *Body & Soul*, includes her 20-second crash course in customer care. "Think of customers as guests, make them laugh. Smile, make eye contact, say hello. Always thank customers and invite them back." *Ambitious Anita.*

**Metal heavy**  
JUST when the City's analysts think they have seen it all, enter Phil Crabb, chief executive of Gasgoyne Gold Mines, and one of Western Australia's toughest prospectors. Crabb has spent the past two weeks roaming the Square Mile drumming up support for a new strike that he hopes will boost his company into the big league. Western Australia's press has been crowding over the success of Crabb, who was all but penniless two and a half years ago, and his return to prosperity will delight his backers, including Keith "Blackjack" Biggs, and dismay his old

adversary, Joe "Sputnik" Gutnick.

### Vintage years

NEARLY 60 traded options fans gathered in West London on Thursday evening for a "thank you" dinner hosted by Tony de Guingand, managing director of the London Traded Options Market. After the dinner, the guests were handed complimentary bottles of wine bearing the dates 1979-1991, to commemorate LTO's years in the City. Unfortunately, as those present were well aware, LTO was founded in April 1978. "We gave it a narrower spread," is de Guingand's explanation.

Overheard at a cocktail party on the fringes of the City last week: The three steps to wealth and fame as a solicitor are "Litigate, procrastinate and exterminate."

CAROL LEONARD

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## Czechoslovakia break-up 'could hinder reforms'

From Wolfgang Münchau in Brno

CZECHOSLOVAKIA could become the next eastern European country to break up, and federal government officials believe economic reform could be seriously disrupted if the republic of Slovakia declares sovereignty, as is widely expected.

The Slovak parliament is due to vote on sovereignty on September 23. A vote in favour of declaring sovereignty could set in motion a series of developments that might, subject to a referendum, establish the country as a loose federation or lead to a complete disintegration.

Government officials at the annual engineering fair in Brno gave warning that the core phase of the country's privatisation programme, due to start next month, could be disrupted. Under this programme, citizens over the age of 18 years are entitled to investment vouchers for 1,000 korunas (about £50), which allow them to bid for shares in selected companies throughout the country. If Slovakia declares independence, Slovakian companies, which are at present included in the scheme, would need to be eliminated from the lists.

In an interview with *The Times*, Jozef Belák, the Slovakian economics minister, accused the federal government of concentrating power at the centre, while passing the difficult decisions, especially on industrial policy, down to the republics. He said: "It is my opinion that where there is responsibility, there should be power. You have seen the same development in Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, which are going through the same process."

As in the Soviet Union, the debate is about the renegotiation of the constitution to allow republican independence while retaining some functions for the central government. Mr Belák wants to retain central powers over foreign policy and defence, while Slovakia would be granted sovereignty over economic policy, including the control of prices, taxation, customs' regulations and banks. He concedes that it might be possible to agree on a

single currency, but in the absence of such an agreement, Slovakia is prepared to introduce its own currency.

The Czech national government has already prepared a "catastrophe scenario action plan", under which the republic would, within 24 hours of a Slovakian independence declaration, establish effective border controls and introduce customs regulations. A federal government official said: "Everyone loses out under such circumstances, but the Slovaks lose out many times more."

The federal government is worried about a Slovakian split through default, which could be possible through a legal loophole that outlaws referenda in the six months before a general election. Elections are due in June next year. This could create an opportunity for the Slovakian parliament to declare full independence next year.

Mr Belák envisages a union treaty between the two republics, on the lines being discussed in the Soviet Union. He conceded that Slovakia has more difficult economic conditions, mainly because of the strong armaments industry and its bias towards primary production, but this, he said, "does not matter because we have to restructure the industry and the economy anyway."

Mr Belák said that if there was a choice in the referendum, it was likely to be between a loose federation and an even looser confederation. If the constitutional negotiations failed, a unilateral split might emerge as the most probable and, economically at least, the worst option.

Czechoslovak trade officials said they expected to reach agreement with the European Community over an association accord by October.

The agreement was due to be reached last week, but was blocked by France, which feared that agricultural imports from Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, which formed part of such an accord, would disadvantage French farmers.

## Europe shapes up for battle over changes to merger thresholds

Philip Bassett reports that skirmishes have already begun as EC prepares to review rules

EUROPE, so often the centre of contention for the British government in recent years, is shaping up for another battle. While arguments about monetary union swirl around in the political atmosphere, the opening of another front — no less crucial for those involved — has already been signalled: the future of EC control over large corporate mergers.

A year ago this week, the EC's merger task force opened its doors to deal with large mergers judged to have a Community dimension. Now, skirmishes have already started on changing the regulations that were 18 years in the making.

On one side is the European Commission, which has ambitions to extend the run of its merger remit by lowering the principal financial threshold over which mergers have to be examined by Brussels, rather than by member states' national competition authorities. The commission would like the current threshold of the combined turnover of the parties to a merger amounting to more than Ecu5 billion (about £3.7 billion) reduced to Ecu3 billion (about £2.2 billion).

On the other side are the countries likely to oppose such a move. Germany, France and particularly Britain, where John Redwood, the corporate affairs minister, has already voiced opposition to any reduction of the threshold. Britain, in common with some other EC members, thought the Ecu5 billion threshold introduced last September too low, let alone any reduction of it.

Jockeying over the thresholds is likely to prompt the recurrence of many of the difficult and typically Brussels steps that had to be taken to



Ready for battle: Sir Leon Brittan, right, with fellow EC commissioners in Brussels

ensure that a year ago, the security-conscious headquarters of the merger task force was able to open its doors.

Though merger regulation was inherent in the EC's aims of balanced trade and fair competition within the community, the first real proposal for community-wide merger regulation did not appear until



Barrie: concern at power 1972, and then took 18 years to be implemented, in a much modified form.

The fact that the planned review of the thresholds looks like being accelerated shows that satisfaction with EC merger control is far from complete. Aside from the coming wrangle over where the goalposts should be sited, how have the first 12 months of the regulations fared?

Stephen Kon, a partner in SJ Berwin, the law firm, which has a sizeable EC business, including a Brussels office, said: "Contrary to fears ex-

pressed in certain quarters prior to the regulation coming into force, the merger task force has, in my view, dealt successfully with the very difficult task of applying the merger regulation during its first year in an efficient and businesslike manner."

Mr Redwood is more sceptical, claiming it is "a bit early to tell". Like Sir Gordon Brex, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, however, the British government has its reservations, for instance, about the powers vested in EC commissioners beyond those of Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner. British ministers and Sir Gordon are concerned that that power to overturn Sir Leon's rulings might lead to decisions being made on grounds other than competition, for instance, regional policy, or concepts such as national champions, which they believe could be detrimental to competition.

The EC merger task force, headed by Colin Overbury, a former army field services expert, is about to complete its 50th merger decision, almost exactly in line with the workload forecast for the year. Because of multiple decisions in any case could, in theory, attract 32 separate decisions; there have, so far, been 53 decisions, but 49 cases, involving food, graphite products, film, telecommunications, computer services, banking, petrochemicals, mail order, car distribution and sewage networks. Com-

panies involved have included ICL, Volvo, Digital, Fiat, Mitsubishi, Unilever, ILL, Delta Airlines, BP, Bosch and ICL.

Though reaching a conclusion has, in some cases, been delicate, in no case yet has the proposed merger been rejected outright. EC officials are acutely conscious that the operation of the merger pol-



Redwood: opposed to cut it, and the politics surrounding it, might well be considerably different if or when a negative decision has to be taken.

Decisions have been reached relatively quickly. Task force officials were conscious of the suspicion of tardiness held by most people, let alone companies engaged in a merger.

One tells the anecdote of a Spanish translator at the EC asking a Greek translator what was the Greek word for *manana*, to be told that Greek had no word with such a sense

of urgency. Translation is estimated by the EC to comprise about 40 per cent of the time it takes to do anything, and with that in mind, the merger task force has tried as far as possible to take decisions in meetings, rather than collapsing into the delay of paper, in order to get views on proposed mergers out as quickly as possible.

Case by case, a set of merger precedents has been built up — precedents affecting not only the companies and issues involved in a merger, but also carrying legal and other implications beyond the cases themselves, creating a raft of new work for lawyers and for the member states' national competition authorities.

The relation on mergers between Brussels and the member states is part of the year's work about which the merger task force is most satisfied. In particular, the commission believes it has secured acceptance of the idea of Brussels being a one-stop shop for large mergers — that Brussels, rather than the individual member authorities, has sole jurisdiction over mergers that fall within the definitions of having a Community interest.

There are, of course, outstanding problems: not only individual cases that might emerge, but also larger, more theoretical issues, though cases that would be hard-wired if it came to it: issues such as the impact on mergers of geographical markets, the tendency for some companies or products with a Community dimension not to stray beyond national boundaries, or how far merger concepts such as concentration can apply to joint ventures, where one of the parent companies remains in the market.

Raising the larger questions of thresholds indicates that the new system, though working, is far from bedded down: opponents of it still feel there is ground to be reclaimed, something to be played for. Even those operating it are reluctant to be definitive about their first year.

Mr Overbury said: "As far as the merger task force is concerned, the jury is still out. Business people are the jury. We await their verdict."

### SMALLER COMPANIES

## Stocklake returns as Adam & Harvey

STOCKLAKE Holdings, the overseas trader, returns to the stock market tomorrow under the guise of Adam & Harvey Group.

The shares were suspended in mid-August after the company took the unusual step of going into voluntary liquidation to return £5.7 million of excess cash to its shareholders.

On its return, the group has adopted the name of its main trading subsidiary, which has interests in Britain, Canada and Germany but is principally associated with steel stockholding in Africa, particularly in Zimbabwe.

The company's operations are best described as diverse. It exports shoes from Czechoslovakia to Canada and medical equipment from Britain to eastern Germany, and imports timber for the domestic furniture industry.

The steel stockholding activities in Central and East Africa contribute the largest share of profits.

Pro-forma accounts for Adam & Harvey, which strip out the impact of its cash balance, show that profits for the year to the end of March were £5.29 million before tax. Steel stockholding contributed just over £4 million.

Diversity has certainly not been a handicap. In the five years to 1991, the old Stocklake increased taxable profits from £3.49 million to £6.3 million and earnings from 41.4p to 84p a share. Over the same five years, payments have risen from 12p a share to a nominal 19p last year.

The market is puzzling over what value to attach to the shares when trading resumes. Investors received 133p in cash and a further 1p in Reck Brothers shares that were formerly held by Stocklake, indicating a floor of 186p for the new Adam & Harvey shares.

Pro-forma earnings of 59.3p a share last year and a historic net yield of 5.4 per cent could, however, boost the equity higher.

MARTIN BARROW

### REPORTING THIS WEEK

## Market looks for evidence of upturn in retailers' results

WITH the interim reporting season in full swing, the City will get its first real chance to test the government's predicted upturn in retail sales when Raters Group and Kingfisher, the Woolworths, B&Q and Superdrug group, unveil their first-half figures.

Analysts expect the two stores groups to paint a contrasting, but relatively grim, picture of how the high street is faring as the recession continues to restrict consumer spending and confidence. Attention will focus on current and future trading prospects as the market looks for concrete evidence of an upturn in high street spending.

### TODAY

A decline in first-half sales in the United Kingdom and margin pressure is expected to push Raters Group, the jewellery retailer, into the red in the first half.

Paul Morris at Goldman Sachs forecasts an interim pre-tax loss of about £15 million (£9.3 million profit), but with an unchanged interim dividend of 2.4p.

Dalgety, the food and agribusiness group, is expected to unveil a decline in full-year profits, reflecting the deconsolidation of Dalgety Farmers, the Australian operation that used to be 65 per cent owned. The holding has since been trimmed to 41 per cent.

Dalgety's final pre-tax profits are expected to slip to £110 million (£118 million), according to County NatWest WoodMac, the broker. Market forecasts range from £108 million to £111 million. Earnings should show marginal growth to 36.5p (36.3p), and an increased net dividend of 19p (18.2p) is forecast.

UBS Phillips & Drew expects first-half pre-tax profits at Icache, the international business services and marketing group, to decline to £87 million (£96 million). Market forecasts range from £87 million to £90 million.

Interstate Asia Property, Christie International, F&D, Farer (James) and Sons, Hongkong Land, Hurdell Technology, Inceps, High Life, Loper, Medeva, Molex, Morgan Crucible Company, Oliver, Quicks Group, Ransomes, Raters



Healthy trend: Sir Ian MacLaurin, head of Tesco

Group, Rugby Group, Russell (Alexander), Sharpe and Fisher, Tibbett & Britten Group.

Financial Dalgety, F&D Group, Scholes Group, Second Alliance Trust, Thompson Cbe Investments. Economic statistics: Index of output of the production industries (July, retail sales (August — provisional).

### TOMORROW

Kingfisher is likely to report slightly lower interim pre-tax profits of £61.8 million (£65 million), says Goldman Sachs. Market forecasts range from £58 million to £67 million.

Kingfisher has had to face difficult first-half trading, particularly at Comet, where losses are expected to deepen. Progress at B&Q is expected to be very slow, with a relatively flat performance also predicted from Superdrug. Woolworths, which traditionally makes a loss in the first half, may make a small profit.

UBS Phillips & Drew has pencilled in first-half pre-tax profits of £100 million (£90 million) for Fisons, the pharmaceuticals and scientific equipment group. Market forecasts range from £98 million to £105 million.

Tesco, the supermarket

chain chaired by Sir Ian MacLaurin, is expected to report a healthy 33 per cent advance in first-half profits, against the downward trend found in other sectors.

Tony MacNeary, at County NatWest, expects the food retailer's pre-tax profits to surge to £230 million (£172.3 million). Earnings are forecast to rise to 7.8p (6.8p), with the dividend up to 1.9p (1.7p). Market predictions range from £227 million to £232 million.

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Tesco, the supermarket

porated, Secure Trust Group, Stag Insurance, Stax Insurance Group, Sun Life Corp, Trade Indemnity Group, Worcester Group.

Financial: Alliance, Community Hospitals, Marvale Moore.

### THURSDAY

Hawker Siddeley Group, the diversified engineering group, is expected to turn in first-half pre-tax profits of £62 million (£66 million), according to Andy Chambers, at Nomura. A maintained interim dividend of 10p is forecast. Market expectations range from £58 million to £68 million.

Charles Lambert, at Smith New Court, expects Laporte, the chemicals group, to report first-half pre-tax profits of £50 million (£52.5 million) and a net dividend of 6.9p (6.4p). Kleinwort Benson, the broker, expects a fall in interim pre-tax profits at RMC Group, the world's leading supplier of ready-mixed concrete, to £75 million (£109.3 million). Forecasts range from £62 million to £88 million.

The Gulf war and recession will have restricted gains at Guinness, the spirits and brewing group. But a strong performance from the brewing division should help first-half pre-tax profits climb to £349 million (£322 million), according to County NatWest. Market forecasts range from £345 million to £356 million. Interim APV, Applewood Group, Baynes (Charles), Benmore, Bentalls, Boustead, Commac Group, Fokkes Group, Glasgow Inc Tax, Good Petroleum, Guinness, Hawker Siddeley Group, Highcroft Investment Trust, Jardine Strategic, Laporte, Magnolia Corp, Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets, P&C Group, Strickland (William), Spring Ram, Taverners, Telematrix, TotalCompagnie, UniChem.

Financial: Dowling & Mills, Foreign & Colonial High, GT Venture Inc Co, Logica, Minorco, Select TV, Waterman Partnership, Zambia Copper Investments. Economic statistics: Leading British banking groups' monthly statement (August), provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (August), provisional figures of vehicle production (August).

### FRIDAY

Interim: Aspen Comms, Brecon, Cresta Ridge, Independent Newspapers, Inco, Lamo, Liberty, Robert Oly, Edinburgh Fund Managers, ESC Group.

Philip Pangalos

DUBLIN & COMPANY						
Classification	Company	Price	Change	Volume	Dividend	Yield
		1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16
1,000,000	ASH Battery	18	0	1	1	3.6
2,000,000	ATA Selection	20	0	1	1	3.6
3,000,000	ATA Selection	20	0	1	1	3.6
4,000,000	ATA Selection	20	0	1	1	3.6
5,000,000	ATA Selection	20	0	1	1	3.6
6,000,000	ATA Selection	20	0	1	1	3.6
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Soviet schools are struggling to cope with the legacy of a discarded ideology and its outdated texts, while (below) there are looming shortages of expertise in Russian studies at British universities

# Freedom to teach the truth at last

One by one, the party posters are coming down. In the teacher training institute in Belgorod, a large city in the agricultural heartland of Russia, staff have already removed a wall of utopian economic plans which are likely never to be fulfilled.

Now the teachers and students are struggling with the implications of the political changes of the past month: how should history be taught, what should replace the obligatory political education classes, how can textbooks be cleaned of the often mendacious communist propaganda?

Last week, schools and universities in the Soviet Union started work so soon after the failure of the coup that many have been unable to react to the new realities.

The old slogans are often still in place and displays of the historic achievements of socialism remain in every corner of the building. The flags of the Soviet-East German friendship society are still emblazoned on one wall.

For the students, uninhibited about expressing their enthusiasm for democracy, the lingering symbolism is of little consequence. More important is the change in the syllabus.

Political education and the history of the Communist party have

been scrapped in schools and students now discuss current affairs. Philosophy, which used to comprise only Marxist-Leninist thought and its precursors, has become a course in world philosophy. Political economy is no longer the study of socialism but of the mechanism of the market. History is the most awkward subject. In School 25, a modern comprehensive, the new textbooks have not arrived. The old ones are almost unusable.

"We do what we can, using cuttings from newspapers, journals and new publications," says a history teacher.

Much depends on the teacher's capabilities, understanding of what was covered up by the blank spaces in communist ideology and, of course, on the teacher's own political inclinations.

English-language textbooks provide an example of the difficulty of removing ideology from education. One, published in Minsk in 1985, is so brazen as to be laughable in today's changed circumstances. One exercise, for example, says: "Act out the following situations: (1) You are discussing with a group why it is necessary to set up a children's communist organisation (homeless, hungry, great attention to the happy future of the



Fallen here: Lenin lies on the floor in a Moscow classroom as a teacher struggles with outdated books

land of the Soviets, the organisation to bring up worthy members of a socialist society; (2) You are discussing the young pioneers in the first year of Soviet power; (3) You are discussing the activities, during the Great Patriotic War (the second world war) and in the postwar years, of the men at the front in plants and factories."

Exercises such as the following would produce a coarse response today: "Add some more information in support: ● The Soviet socialist system has always been democratic in composition; ● The system of Soviets operates

on the principle of democratic centralism."

The students say the influence of the events in Moscow has not yet trickled down to Belgorod. They have a thirst to learn English that transcends all the old propaganda. For them, English represents the way ahead: the language of rock music, computers, business and the world beyond the old frontiers.

They and their teachers all hope to travel more freely and more often.

The suspension of the Communist party has had a swift influence on education in the Soviet republics. Previously, most senior

teachers and lecturers were obliged to be party members; otherwise they would have been blocked in their careers. One who signed to become a headmaster turned in his party card last year in disgust at the party's failure to accept reform. Now he has no time for his former colleagues, many of whom are now unemployed. The danger, he believes, comes from their trying to get back into education by the back door. He explains: "They all think that just because they have a diploma, which usually involved writing a worthless dissertation on communism, they would make great teachers."

MICHAEL BINYON

# Boarding schools are singing the empty bed blues

Falling rolls will be the main item when worried headmasters meet this week

This week, in the peace of pre-term Cambridge, the worried headmasters of some of the country's leading boarding schools will seek advice on how to run their schools on reduced budgets as they find themselves with vacant places, each representing up to £10,000 a year in lost fees.

The recession, and a change in social trends has led to a 10 per cent reduction in the number of parents sending their children to boarding school since 1984. Last year, five girls' boarding schools closed and the pressures on boarding are now starting to threaten the apparently impenetrable walls of the 233 schools belonging to the Headmasters' Conference (HMC), the most prestigious of educational staff associations.

Geoffrey Parker, the high master of Manchester grammar school, and this year's HMC chairman, says: "Our parents are finding life tough but the effects of recession are different in all our schools, depending on a variety of factors, such as the area of the country a school is in, our customers, and the reputation of the school. It is no surprise that it is the rural girls' schools and some preparatory schools that are having the most difficulty."

Mr Parker is confident that HMC schools, which have not seen a closure since the war, will survive, but he accepts that there will have to be changes. "We are still strong and powerful institutions, but what we all have to do is to learn how to manage schools in a recession," he says.

"We have to face the prospect of no growth and abandon unthinking, long-ingrained habits such as putting our fees up beyond the rate of inflation, and go on building and growing."

One solution may be for schools to get smaller, says Mr Parker, who has asked John Sutton, the general secretary of the Secondary Heads' Association, to which all members of the conference belong, to lead a discussion group on how heads can deal with the problems caused by falling rolls.

Mr Sutton says that the problems of falling numbers at board-

ing schools could be the result of recession or a change in social trends, but so far, he says, there is no evidence that the well-established day schools are facing difficulties. "In fact, as boarding numbers drop the pressure to get into the day schools grows longer," he adds. "The headmasters of some boarding schools, however, are having to deal with the problem, something they have not been used to recently. In the short term they have to know how to deal with staff, particularly when it comes to reducing the establishment."

The schools are so concerned they are beginning a boarding week campaign early next month. David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Headteachers, believes that in hard times and with a greater choice of state schools, many of them producing good examination results, parents may think twice before choosing to pay for their children's education.

"Parents choose independent education fundamentally because they believe their children will get better examination results, which give them a better chance in life," he says. "This year's results show that state schools are no better or no worse than many independent schools. Parents should ask not just whether the results are good but are they good enough, bearing in mind the quality of the pupils they are teaching."

Mr Hart says that if the number of grant-maintained schools continues to grow, parents may be attracted by what they would regard as the independent nature of the schools and choose them in favour of an independent day school charging about £3,500 a year.

Ironically, a Labour government could assist independent schools if it scraps the opt-out policy and hands all existing grant-maintained schools back to the local authorities, so removing a potential area of competition. Many parents, however, still believe that a private education is superior to the state system.

DAVID TYTLER

# Losing out in the rush to learn Russian

THE upheavals in the Soviet Union have added to the surge of interest in Russian studies that had already been taxing hard-pressed university departments in Britain.

Applications for places have been rising for several years, and the demand from business and industry, the media and government for academic expertise has never been stronger. Ironically, however, the subject itself is in many ways at a low ebb. Rationalisation by the university grants committee closed several departments in the 1980s and another, at Aberdeen University, will disappear next

year. Although one result has been larger, stronger units, another has been stagnation in the academic community. Recruitment has been almost non-existent for more than a decade, so few of the staff are under 40.

Important areas of specialisation have been neglected, and the departments face a crisis when the bulk of retirements start because the research students are not there in the numbers necessary to provide replacements.

Martin McCauley, of London University's School of Slavonic and East European Studies, says: "In five to ten years, the most

senior group of academics will leave, and there will be nobody to take their place. There has been only one PhD in Soviet economics in recent years and we are very thin on the Muslim areas and the nationalities, which are assuming great importance."

John Elsworth, the professor of Russian at Manchester University and chairman of the National Subject Association, says: "The neglect of the subject has been severe over the past ten to 15 years, and there is a lot of ground to make up. Demand for places is still strong and can be expected to remain so, but we are subject to the same financial

constraints that all universities are operating under."

Dr McCauley says the latest developments in the Soviet Union will make it even more difficult for the departments to cope. As well as encouraging more applications, new demands will be made of researchers.

The fear expressed by Sir Bryan Cartledge, former ambassador to Moscow and now principal of Lincoln College, Oxford, is that Britain will lose out to better-briefed rivals if the present situation is allowed to continue.

JOHN O'LEARY

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## POSTS

## COURSES



### Principal CHETHAM'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC HMC, GBA

Applications are invited for the post of Principal of Chetham's School of Music, to commence in September 1992 on the retirement of John Vallins, OBE. Chetham's is the UK's largest specialist School of Music and has a world-wide reputation for musical excellence. In addition it provides an excellent academic education for its 265 co-educational pupils, almost all of whom are boarders aged between 11 and 18.

Candidates, men or women, must show proven management ability, imagination and vision, and have an informed and sensitive awareness of music. The salary and conditions of employment will reflect fully its significance and challenge.

Further information can be obtained from the Chairman of the School Committee, c/o Ravenscroft and Partners Limited, St. Andrew's Chambers, 20 Albert Square, Manchester M2 5PE (061-832 9875), to whom applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

### Girton College RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Applications are invited for Research Fellowships tenable from 1 October 1992 for three years, to be held in any subject. The Fellowships are open to graduates of any university with no age limit, but will normally be awarded to candidates who have recently completed their PhD or are close to completion.

The emoluments of the Fellowship are reviewed annually. Currently they are £8,100 p.a. for a Fellow who has not proceeded to the PhD Degree and £10,400 (rising by two annual increments to £11,000) for a post-PhD Fellow. Additional benefits include residence at a modest charge or a living-out allowance of £1200 p.a. and a first child allowance of £270 p.a. Research expenses up to a total of £1200 over the three years of the Fellowship may be paid.

The closing date for application is 11 October 1991 for those applying in an Arts subject; and 16 October 1991 for those applying in a Science subject. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to submit work in early November, and final interviews will take place in late November/early December 1991.

Further particulars and application forms (please state whether Arts or Science required) are available from the Secretary to the Research Fellowship Electors, Girton College, Cambridge CB3 0JG.



### St. Mary's School Wantage, Oxfordshire BURSAR and Clerk to the Governors

The Governors invite applications for the post of Bursar and Clerk to the Governors. The appointment will be made early in 1992 with a view to succeeding the present Bursar on his retirement at the end of July, 1992.

The Bursar has overall responsibility for financial affairs, including the preparation of budgets and the control of expenditure at the school, for staff management, the maintenance of school property and catering.

Applicants with broad administrative experience in senior posts, including the responsibility for financial and personnel matters, should write to the Clerk to the Governors, St. Mary's School, Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 8BZ, enclosing a curriculum vitae and the names of two referees before Monday, 7th October, 1991. There are no strict age limits but the preferred age range is 40-50 years. Salary to be by arrangement.

### RISHWORTH SCHOOL



### APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

The Governors of Rishworth School invite applications for the post of Head which will become vacant on the 1st September 1992 following the appointment of Mr. A.J. Morley to the Headship of Plymouth College. Rishworth, a co-educational independent school with membership of GBA and SHMS, currently has 830 pupils, including 125 boarders and 150 in the Preparatory Department - Heafthfield.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from:

The Clerk to the Board of Governors  
Rishworth School, Rishworth  
West Yorkshire HX5 4QA

The closing date for applications is 4th October 1991

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The value of previous managerial experience is considered to be a useful alternative for those not holding formal qualifications.

Successful candidates will receive a Masters Degree in Business and the intermediate award of Diploma in Business Research Methods.

For further information on the Programme commencing January 1992 contact: Dr Paul Frost, Programme Director on (0273) 670709 or write to him at Brighton Business School, Brighton Polytechnic, Southpoint Business Centre, 8 Paston Place, Brighton BN2 1HA.

The Government's inspectors recently described Business and Management at Brighton Polytechnic as being of "outstanding quality"

**BRIGHTON POLYTECHNIC**



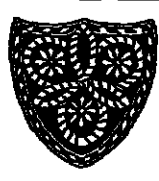
### TRURO HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS CORNWALL (Member of the Girls' Schools Association)

**APPOINTMENT OF HEAD**  
The Headship of this independent Church of England day and boarding school will become vacant from the 1st September 1992. The School, classified at Group 4, is a single-sex school for girls aged 3 to 18, with boarding facilities for up to 100 and a Sixth Form of 61. The successful candidate will possess both high academic qualifications and sound management experience.

Salary will be within the Group 4 range and negotiable according to experience.

Further particulars and application forms are available from:-  
Mrs C Harcourt-Wilson  
Governor and Clerk to the Governors  
Upper School Lane, Truro  
Cornwall TR1 2HS  
Telephone: 0872-73988

to whom completed applications should be sent by  
WEDNESDAY, 9th OCTOBER 1991.



### Moreton Hall Shropshire PRINCIPAL

The Governing Council invites applications for the post of Principal from September 1992, following the retirement of Mr M. J. Maloney JP MA.

Moreton Hall is an 11-18 boarding school for 330 girls, including a sixth form of over 100. It occupies a spacious site in lovely country on the Shropshire/Wales border with excellent access by road and rail to the conurbations of the West Midlands and North West. The Governors have recently completed an extensive programme of refurbishment and development.

Candidates should be graduates with boarding school experience.

Further details of the school and the post can be obtained from:

The Clerk to the Council  
Moreton Hall  
Wigton Rly., Oswestry  
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The closing date for receipt of applications is the 27th September 1991.

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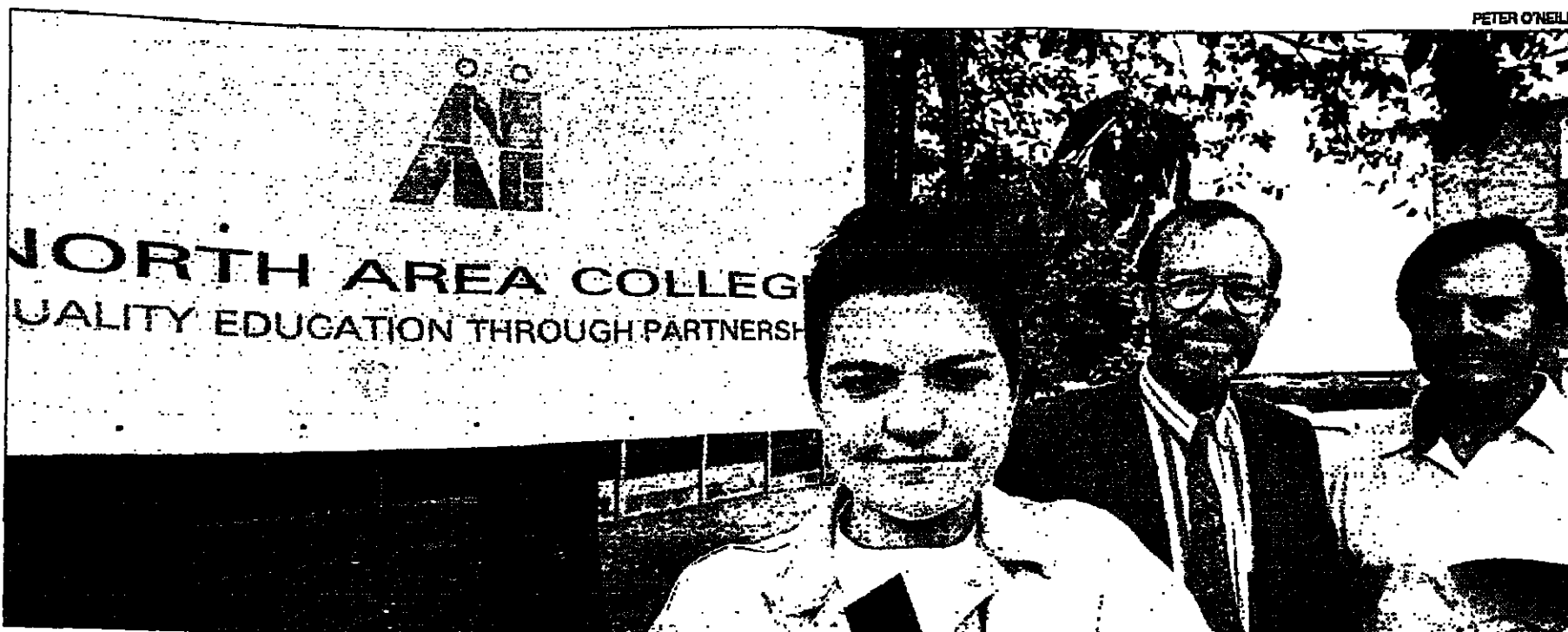
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55 من الاحول





Three-way contract: Claire Mellor, aged 16, with her tutor, Howard Garnett, centre, and her father, Keith, who will be kept informed of her progress at North Area College

## Going for the personal deal

Students are being offered contracts so they and their parents can become 'critical consumers'. David Tytler reports

When Linda Oldroyd joined her new college, she could hardly believe what she was hearing. The teacher asked what she expected the college to do for her. Once she had given her explanation, the teacher told 17-year-old Linda what was expected from her.

The details were written down and a contract was drawn up between Linda and the North Area College at Stockport, Greater Manchester. Her parents then agreed verbally to support the college in every way they could. As part of the service, Linda's tutor promised to telephone her parents once a month to report her progress and any difficulties.

Linda's mother, Dorothy, says: "I have a close relationship with my daughter, but for those parents who do not have a good relationship with their children the system would be invaluable. Tutors telephoned regularly to tell me what was going on."

Mrs Oldroyd also liked the college practice of bringing students, tutors and parents together to assess a student's progress and to discuss ways in which a course might be improved or altered. Linda has just left the college after qualifying as a nanny and is now working in the college canteen.

This year, another student, Claire Mellor, aged 16, hopes to start GCSE studies at the college under the same agreed conditions

with Howard Garnett, her personal tutor. Her father, Keith, will be kept informed.

North Area is one of 19 schools and colleges that joined a pilot scheme for home-school contracts, set up last year by the National Association of Headteachers and the Royal Society of Arts. Ten more schools joined this year and the scheme is so successful that it is a prime part of the Labour party's plans for a parents' partnership, announced last week to rival the parents' charter to be unveiled by the government at the end of the month.

Chris Chapman, the principal of North Area College, says: "We aim to help our students and their parents to become critical consumers of education. 'Critical'

does not mean threatening. We see our students and parents as customers and if they are empowered to judge what is provided, this criticism provides the opportunity for the college to modify its approach to suit the needs of every client. In establishing a contract with our students, we ask that they indicate how they know they are receiving a quality education. Given help, students soon develop their own list of requirements."

"When a student is discussing the requirements with his or her tutor, he may say he cannot be in class by nine every morning as his mother is unwell and that he needs to help her before leaving for college. Where something like this happens, the tutor, after discussion, will make alterations, so it

is quite possible that different students will have different contracts."

Students are also asked where they see themselves in eight or ten years' time and how they could set about achieving that ambition by drawing up long-term plans, including, perhaps, extra courses or involving some outside activity or work experience. The long-term aims and short-term agreements are reviewed regularly. For students who do not have any ideas for the future, the college gives extra careers advice.

If Labour wins the next election, the system will be adopted nationwide alongside other proposals to involve parents in their children's education. Labour says it will give parents the legal right to set up

their own home-school associations, which would take an interest in how the school was run, what was being taught, and how lessons could be improved. The associations would ensure that parents had easy access to teachers, including regular surgeries.

This is already happening at Rush Common primary school, at Abingdon, Oxfordshire, where parents and teachers set up a school association in 1989. The association allows parents to liaise directly with teachers on what they want for their children and how they can help to provide it.

John Fisher, the head teacher, says: "Some parents will want to become involved with the curriculum while others will be more concerned in helping their children with their topic work or going on trips with them."

Mr Fisher says that in a school with 480 children and 20 staff, close links with parents are essential. To help this process, every teacher holds a weekly surgery for parents, who in turn will be asked to sign a home-school contract next year.

He adds: "When parents send their children to the school they have made a conscious choice that this is the school they want, and it could be said that they are duty-bound to support and help the school to provide what they wish for their children."

## The yen to learn

SCHOOL inspectors have confirmed the glowing verdict on Japanese education delivered earlier this year by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary.

Without going as far as Mr Clarke, who described the system as the most successful in the developed world, the team from Her Majesty's Inspectorate gave full marks to the Japanese for commitment to education and the standards achieved. The system had helped to develop a powerful, competitive economy and a civilisation in which there is little petty crime.

Although the official school leaving age is 15, only 6 per cent leave before they are 18, and 42 per cent go on to higher education. The inspectors attributed such success to the high status of teachers and a widespread belief in the need to motivate pupils and have high expectations of them.

The inspectors, who often travel abroad to assess other educational systems, did spot some flaws. Many Japanese believed that inflexible teaching methods and the tremendous pressure on pupils to pass examinations hindered the development of creative thinking.

## Spreading out

THE Commonwealth Institute, one of London's most popular venues for school visits, is to open a northern branch in Bradford, West Yorkshire. Lynda Chalker, the overseas development minister, will open the centre on September 26.

Like its London counterpart, the institute's first regional centre will provide research and learning materials for use throughout the region. The project has been carried out with Bradford council, which will employ a team of advisory teachers.

## Silenced?

ONE of the prickliest thorns in the side of successive education ministers is to be removed temporarily. Alan Smithers, the professor of education at Manchester University and a regular critic of government

policy, last week started a year's attachment with BP.

Professor Smithers has produced a string of reports on teacher shortages, staff requirements, higher education entry standards and the national curriculum.

The link with BP dates back to a report Professor Smithers wrote for the company in 1989 on participation in higher education, which spawned a £3 million education project. He will now be assessing the value of the company's links with education and helping to establish more in other countries.

## C change

FOREIGN names, particularly those that keep changing, are a problem even for sub-editors on *The Times*. Reviewing the Oxford Children's Encyclopedia on this page last week, Brian Alderson was careful to explain the breadth of knowledge contained within the seven volume work, saying that biographies ranged from Abraham to Zhou Enlai. A wish for uniformity changed the name to Chou En-lai. Whatever shortcomings the £100 work of reference may have, it does more than go from A to C.

## Easier rider



MICHAEL Christie, above, a Teesside Polytechnic undergraduate, has put his industrial design course into practice with a design for a rear-wheel shock absorber for mountain bikes. The device, which reduces cramping and leg fatigue, is being marketed by the polytechnic's new enterprise company.

JOHN O'LEARY

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(Academic Appointments), University of Leicester, University Road,  
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## Obligation to avoid any discrimination on the ground of nationality

5 The existence of the present system of national quotas does not affect the replies given to the second question.

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Athlete of the year rediscovers his form

## Backley bounces straight back with record throw

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

STEVE Backley, the world athlete of the year last year, salvaged something worthwhile from his trouble-torn season yesterday when he set a British and Commonwealth javelin record with his first throw in the McVitie's Challenge at Sheffield. Why, he must have wondered as he beat the first seven from the world championships, could he not have done it in Tokyo?

Backley was not even supposed to have been here. His name was not in the programme and he decided only on Saturday to compete. "I did not want to end the season there," he said, referring to his demise in Tokyo, where he failed to reach the final and threw only 78.24 metres. "I felt I had something to prove."

But here he broke new ground with 91.36 metres and followed up his opening throw with 90.48. After one more aborted attempt, when he felt a twinge in the adductor which has ruined his season, he passed on his last three throws. Perhaps, he surmised later, he might have got the big throw in Tokyo had he received better medical advice. Backley had three cortisone

injections last week to break down scar tissue. "I was advised the injury would not go away," he said when asked why he had not had them in Tokyo. "It was partly my fault for not admitting to myself how the injury was." Liz McColgan's first race since Tokyo ended in defeat, but it hardly mattered. For those who had achieved in Tokyo this was an occasion for going through the motions for the appreciative Sheffield public. The 25,000 spectators comprised the largest crowd at an athletics meeting in Britain for 21 years.

The next time to take McColgan's performance seriously will be in the New York marathon on November 3 and she leaves for Florida on Wednesday to begin her preparation. It will be her marathon debut and a pointer to whether she might have the first sub 2hr 20min run by a woman in her once she has gained some experience at the distance.

However, the 10,000 metres, the event at which she won Britain's only individual gold medal at the world championships, will remain

her event for the Olympic Games next year. After Tokyo, McColgan's nine-month old baby, Elisha, got the odd-duty she was given with her gold medal, yesterday Elisha got the blame.

"I missed four days training last week - I caught a cold from Elisha," McColgan said after finishing third in the 3,000 metres. Mary Slaney, aged 33 and beset by injuries in recent years, let McColgan do the work for 2,000 metres before making her break and going on to win in 8min 43.19sec. Kathrin Ulrich, four days after setting a German 5,000 metres record, took second in 8:47.11 while McColgan ran 8:49.22.

Lindford Christie arrived for the 100 metres in a skeleton body suit and, with 10.09sec, left the field for dead. Michael Johnson, has left nothing on the bone for anyone all year at 200 metres and his 19.94sec was the fastest seen in England, leaving the runner-up, John Drummond, who won his World Student Games title here, almost a second behind.

Roger Black produced his tenth sub 45-second 400 metres of the season, winning in 44.98sec, and his training partner, Kriss Akabusi, won the 400 metres hurdles in 49.22.

Sally Gunnell scored her second win in three days over Tatyana Ledovskaya, who beat her to the world title in the 400 metres hurdles, and Dalton Grant beat the world champion, Charles Austin, in the high jump with 2.30.

In the Emily Carr Mile, Peter Elliott scored his ninth successive victory over Steve Cram. Paced for two and a half laps by David Sharpe, he then took it on from the front to reach the bell in 2min 55.29sec.

**100m:** 1. L Christie (GB), 10.09sec; 2. J Zalusky (CAN), 10.15; 3. B Maréchal (F), 10.25; 4. M Johnson (GB), 10.34; 5. J Drummond (GB), 10.39; 6. J Bakonyi (HUN), 10.50; 7. D Smith (GB), 10.51; 8. J Back (GB), 10.52; 9. J Vekler (HUN), 10.53; 10. J Back (GB), 10.54; 11. J Back (GB), 10.55; 12. J Back (GB), 10.56; 13. J Back (GB), 10.57; 14. J Back (GB), 10.58; 15. J Back (GB), 10.59; 16. J Back (GB), 11.00; 17. J Back (GB), 11.01; 18. J Back (GB), 11.02; 19. J Back (GB), 11.03; 20. J Back (GB), 11.04; 21. J Back (GB), 11.05; 22. J Back (GB), 11.06; 23. J Back (GB), 11.07; 24. J Back (GB), 11.08; 25. J Back (GB), 11.09; 26. J Back (GB), 11.10; 27. J Back (GB), 11.11; 28. J Back (GB), 11.12; 29. J Back (GB), 11.13; 30. J Back (GB), 11.14; 31. J Back (GB), 11.15; 32. J Back (GB), 11.16; 33. J Back (GB), 11.17; 34. J Back (GB), 11.18; 35. J Back (GB), 11.19; 36. J Back (GB), 11.20; 37. J Back (GB), 11.21; 38. J Back (GB), 11.22; 39. J Back (GB), 11.23; 40. J Back (GB), 11.24; 41. 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